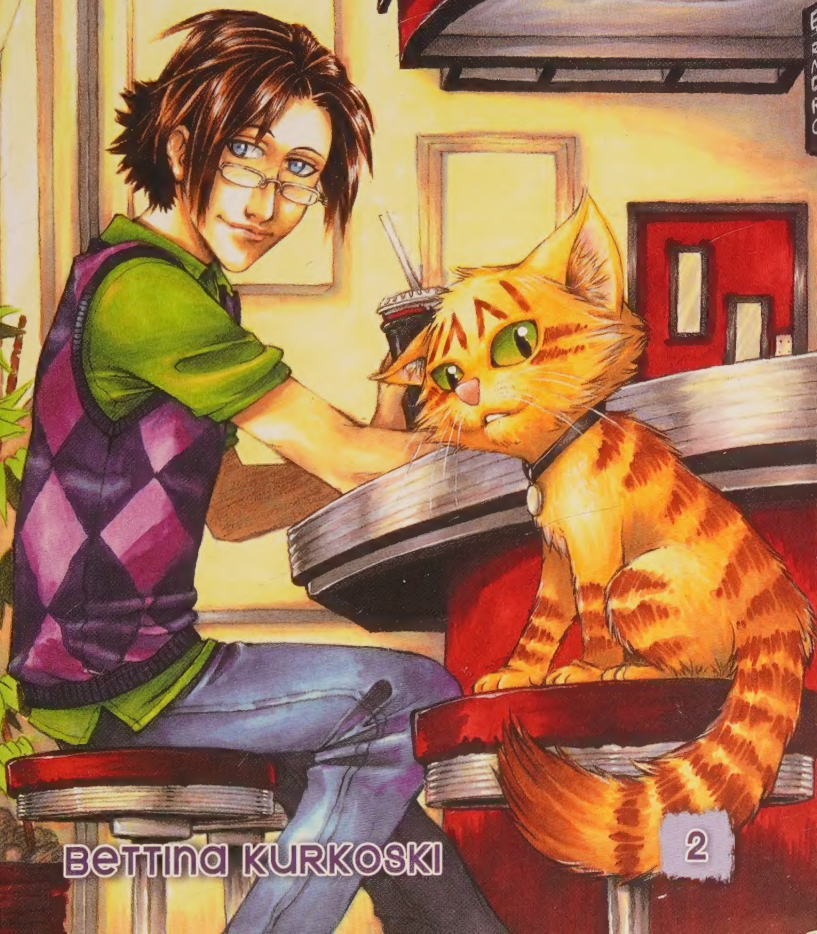


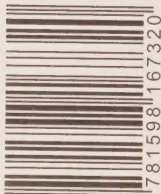
My cat Loki



BETTINA KURKOSKI

2

ISBN 978-1-59816-732-0



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my cat LOKI

Volume 2

Story and Art by
Bettina M. Kurkoski



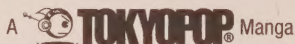
HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO


My Cat Loki Vol. 2

Created by Bettina M. Kurkoski

Lettering - Star Print Brokers
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Publisher - Mike Kiley
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
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ISBN: 978-1-59816-732-0

First TOKYOPOP printing: August 2007

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA

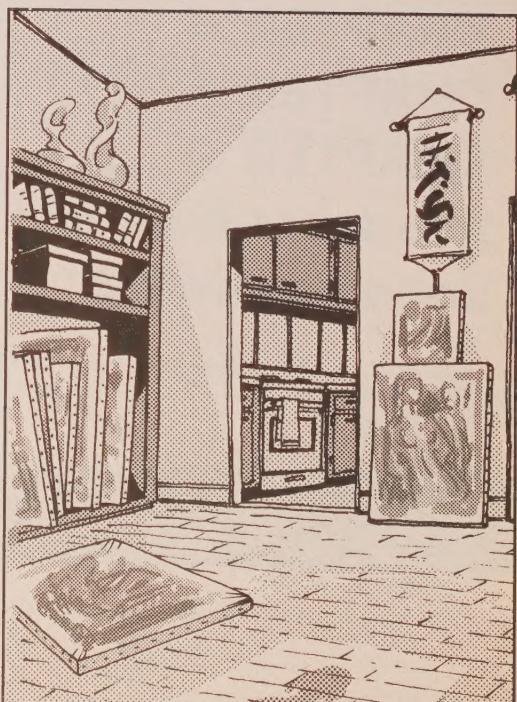
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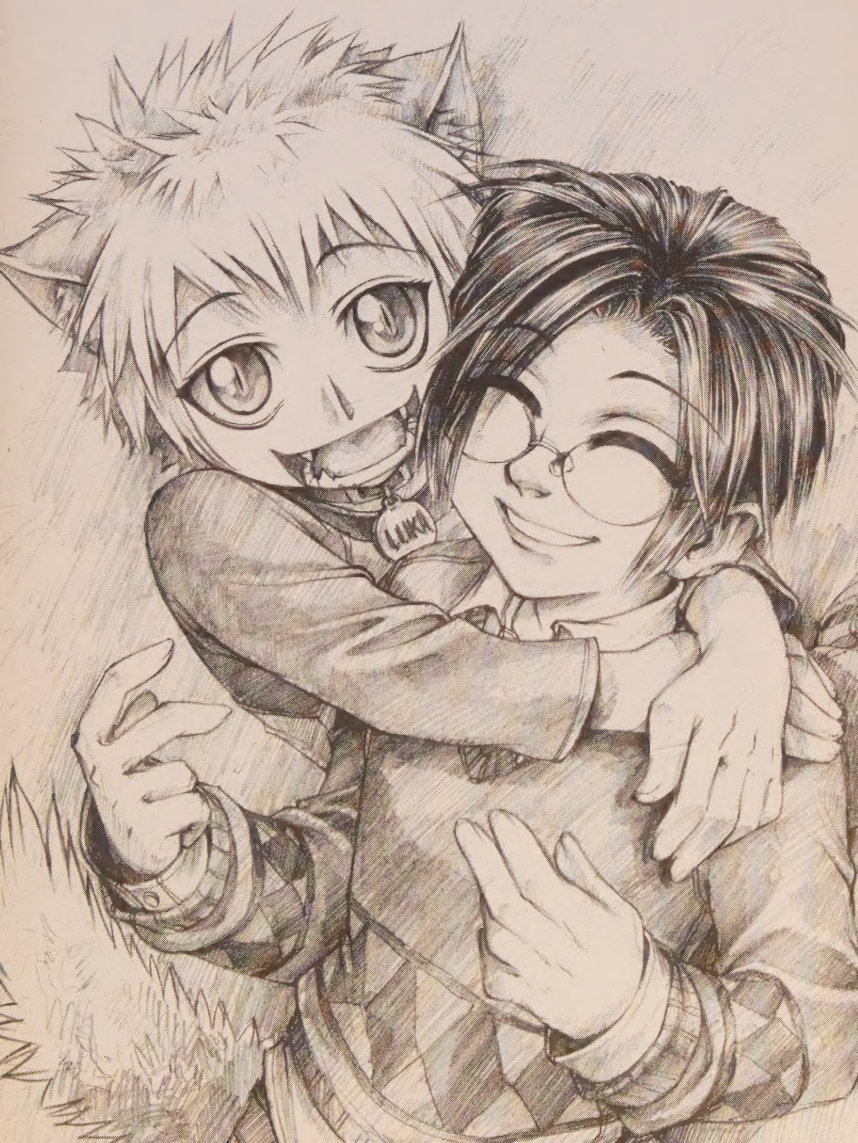
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**BITE
ME!**





CHAPTER 1





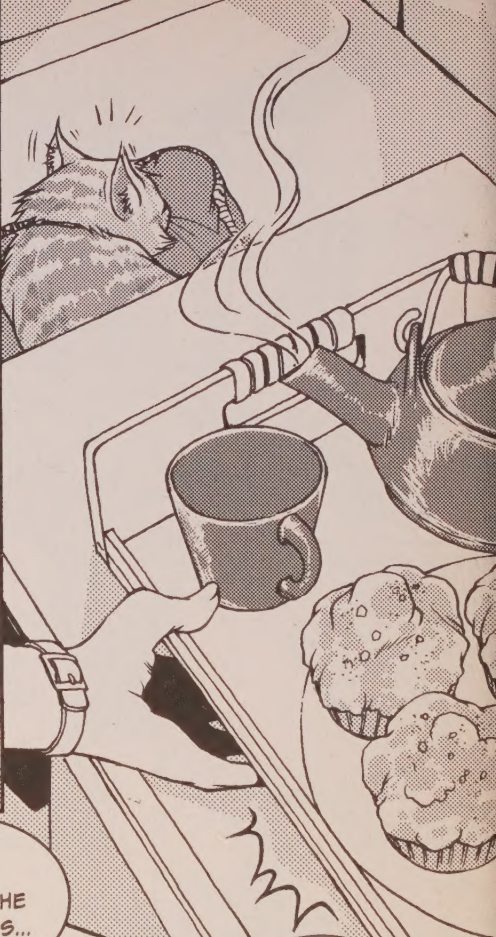


LOKI!
THE TEA IS
READY!

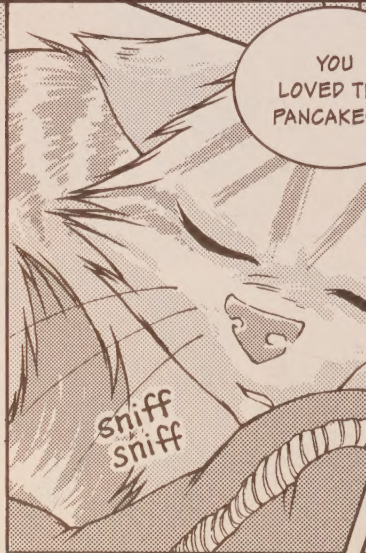
I'M GONNA
START THE
MOVIE!



I EVEN
BAKED FRESH
BANANA
MUFFINS.



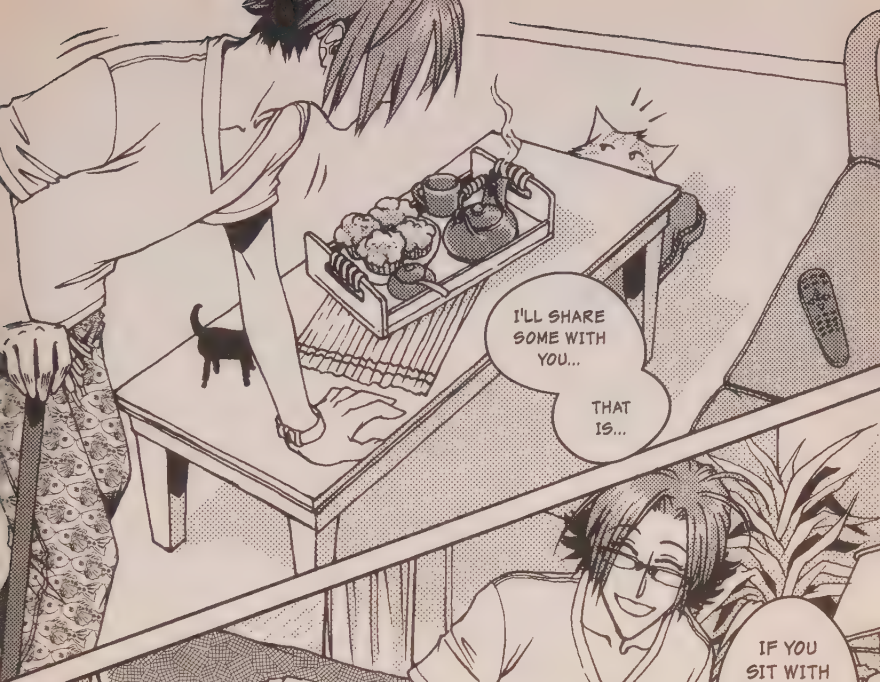
YOU
LOVED THE
PANCAKES...



sniff
sniff



SO I'M SURE
YOU'LL LOVE
THESE...

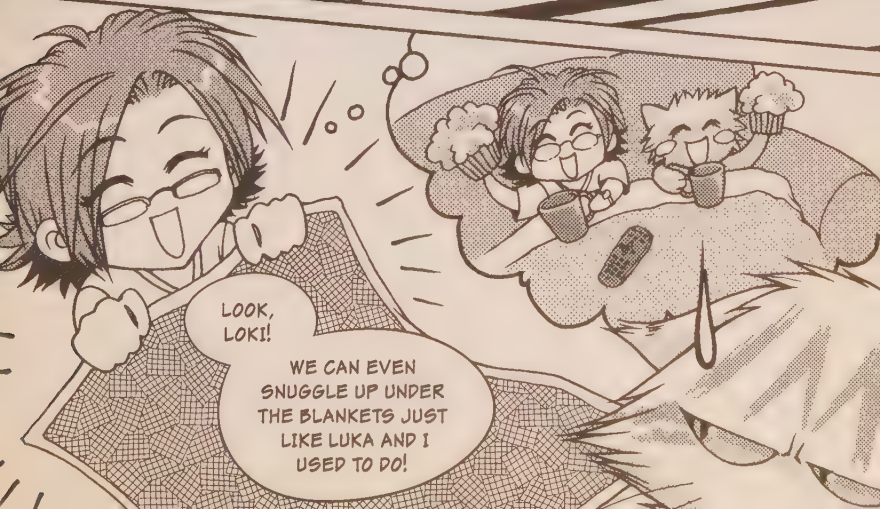


I'LL SHARE
SOME WITH
YOU...

THAT
IS...

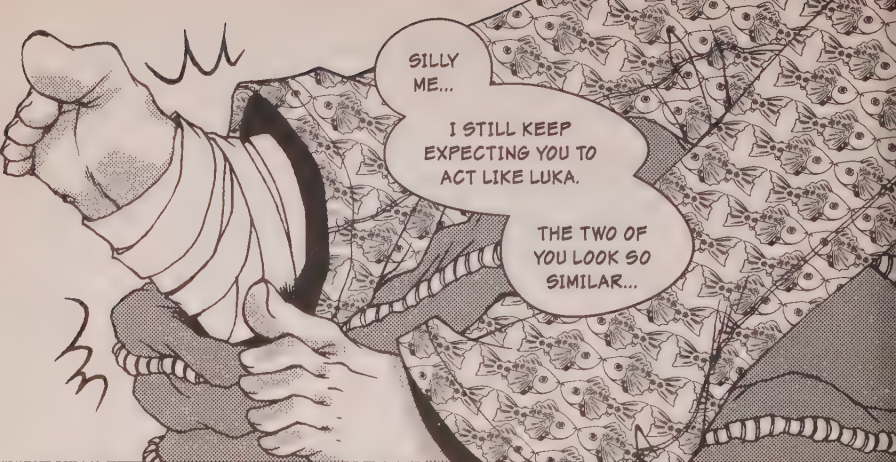


IF YOU
SIT WITH
ME ON THE
COUCH
AND WATCH
THE
MOVIE.



LOOK,
LOK!

WE CAN EVEN
SNUGGLE UP UNDER
THE BLANKETS JUST
LIKE LUKA AND I
USED TO DO!



SILLY
ME...

I STILL KEEP
EXPECTING YOU TO
ACT LIKE LUKA.

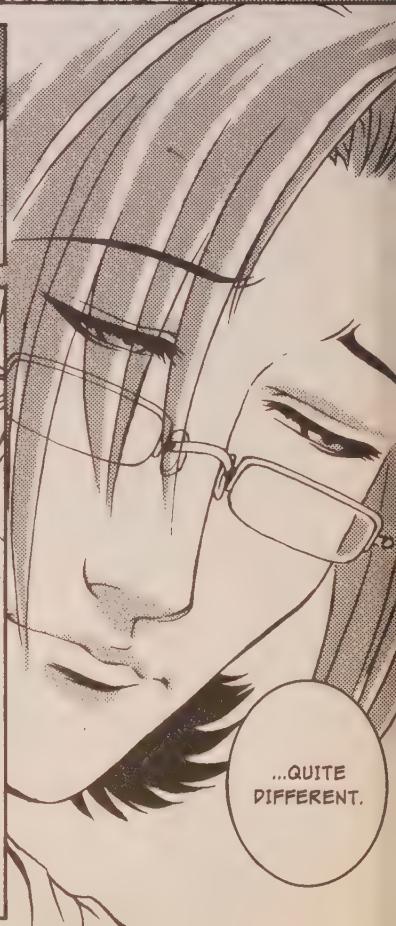
THE TWO OF
YOU LOOK SO
SIMILAR...



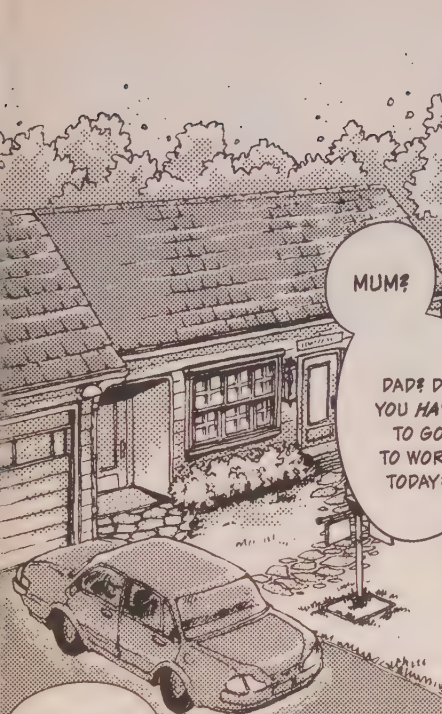
BUT...

SIGH...

...I'M
SURE
YOUR
LIVES
HAVE
BEEN...

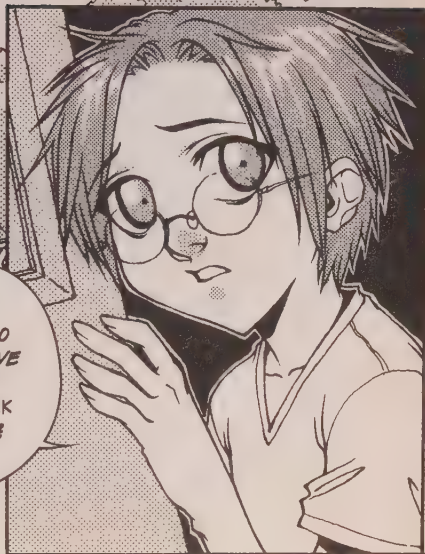


...QUITE
DIFFERENT.



MUM?

DAD? DO
YOU HAVE
TO GO
TO WORK
TODAY?



AW, AMEYA,
BABY.

WE'VE BEEN
OVER THIS
BEFORE!

LISTEN
TO YOUR
MUM,
AMEYA.

I KNOW,
BUT...

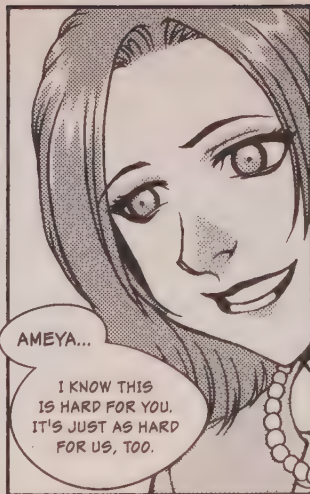
YOU KNOW
THAT DAD AND I
HAVE TO WORK
TO PAY ALL
OUR BILLS.

AMEYA,
EVERYTHING
IS GOING TO
BE OKAY...
TRUST ME.



BUT
MUM! SHE
DOESN'T
EVEN PAY
ATTENTION
TO ME!

SHE
JUST SITS
AROUND AND
TALKS ON
THE PHONE
ALL DAY!



AMEYA...

I KNOW THIS
IS HARD FOR YOU.
IT'S JUST AS HARD
FOR US, TOO.

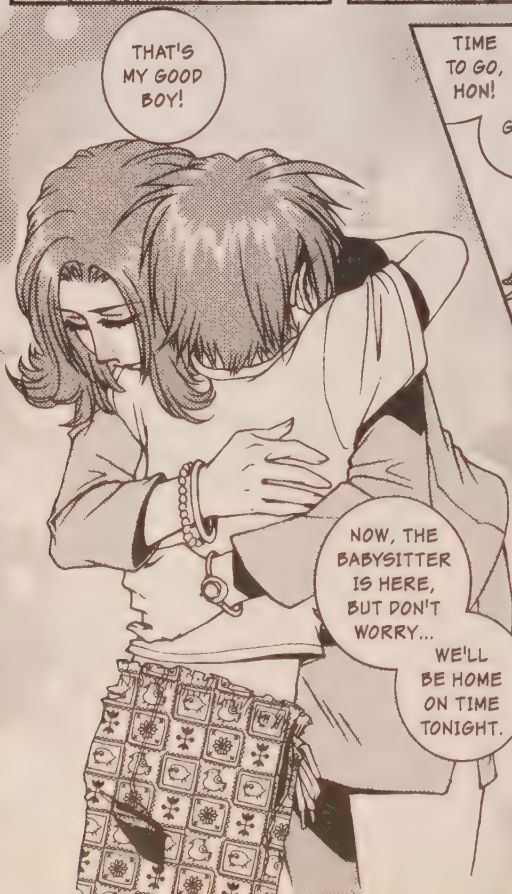


PLEASE...

JUST A
LITTLE
LONGER!

I PROMISE
IT'LL GET
BETTER.

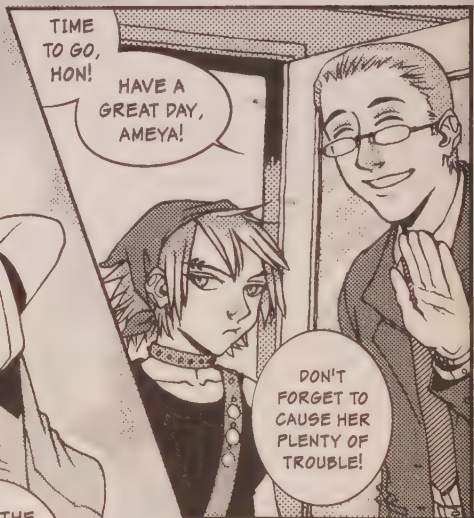
FINE...



THAT'S
MY GOOD
BOY!

NOW, THE
BABYSITTER
IS HERE,
BUT DON'T
WORRY...

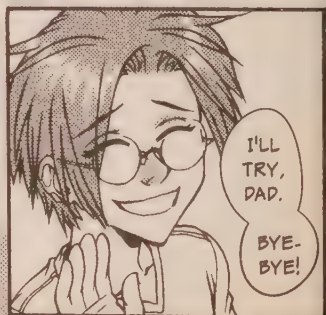
WE'LL
BE HOME
ON TIME
TONIGHT.



TIME
TO GO,
HON!


HAVE A
GREAT DAY,
AMEYA!

DON'T
FORGET TO
CAUSE HER
PLENTY OF
TROUBLE!



I'LL
TRY,
DAD.

BYE-
BYE!



THEY'RE
GONE, KID...

YOU
KNOW THE
DRILL!

GO
TO YOUR
ROOM AND
LEAVE ME
ALONE.



MUM...



DAD...



PLEASE...



COME
HOME
SOON!

mew?

mew?

mew?

AAAW...

LOOK AT HIM
SLEEPING SO
SOUNDLY.

mew?

THINK
HE'LL
LIKE
HIM?

I
HOPE
SO!

mew?

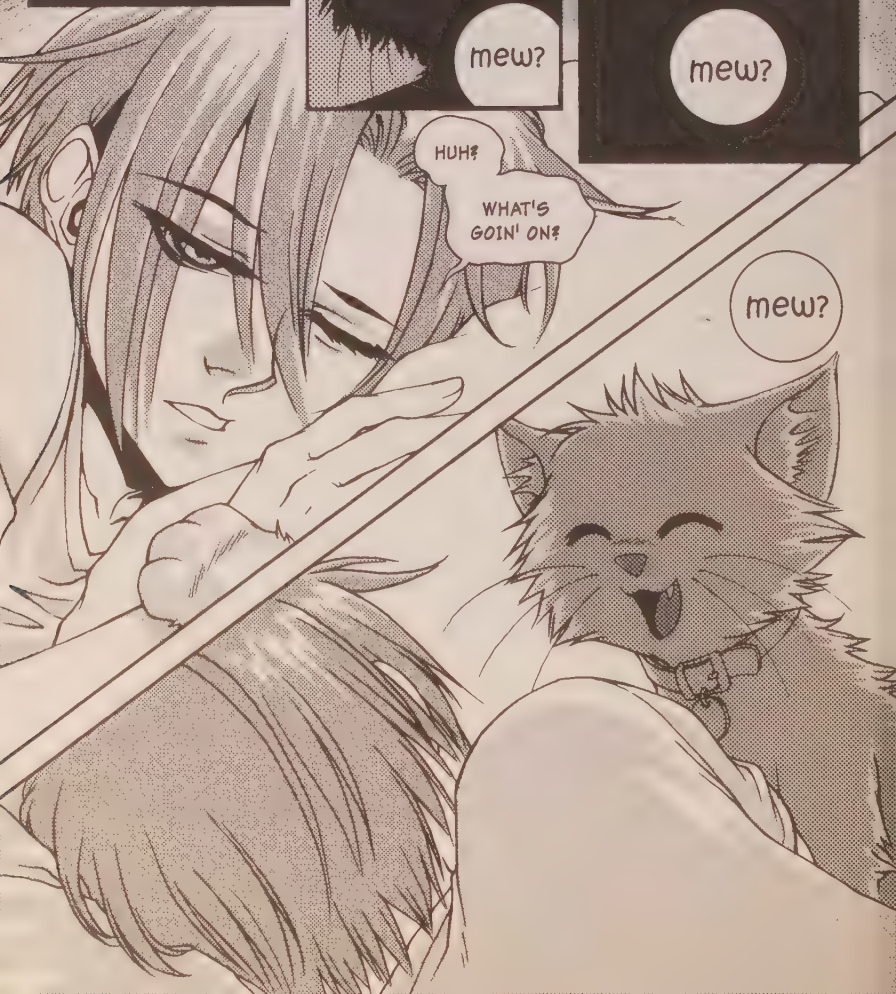
mew?

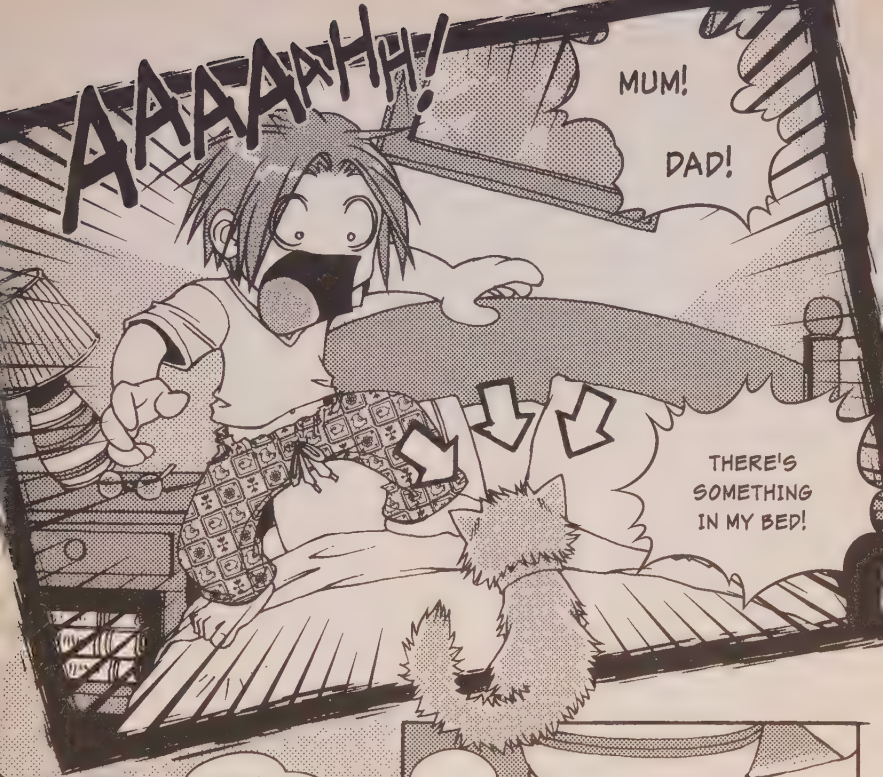
mew?

HUH?

WHAT'S
GOIN' ON?

mew?



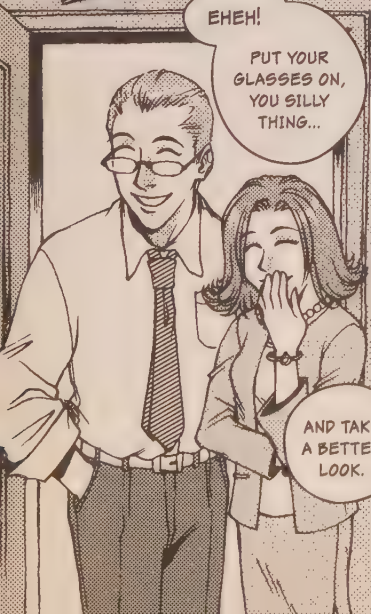


AAAAHHH!

MUM!

DAD!

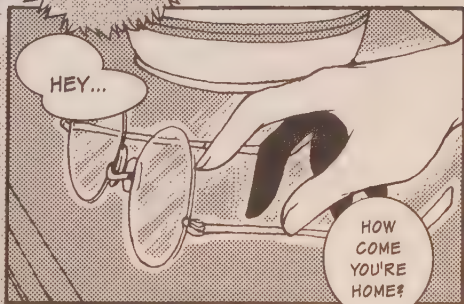
THERE'S
SOMETHING
IN MY BED!



EHEH!

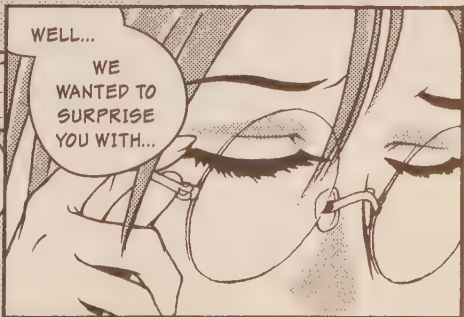
PUT YOUR
GLASSES ON,
YOU SILLY
THING...

AND TAKE
A BETTER
LOOK.



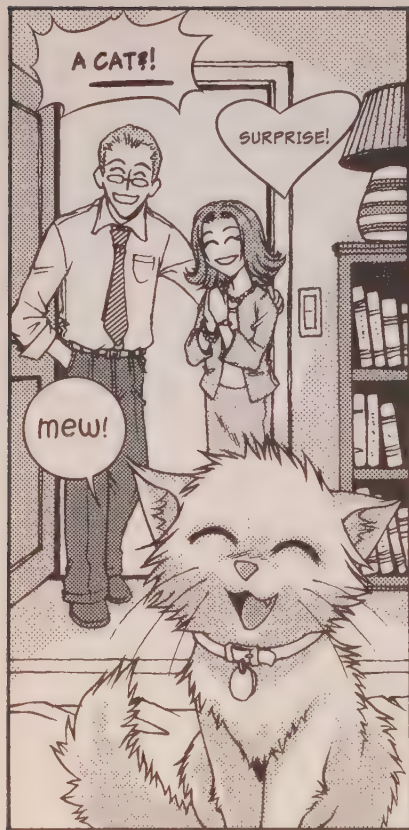
HEY...

HOW
COME
YOU'RE
HOME?



WELL...

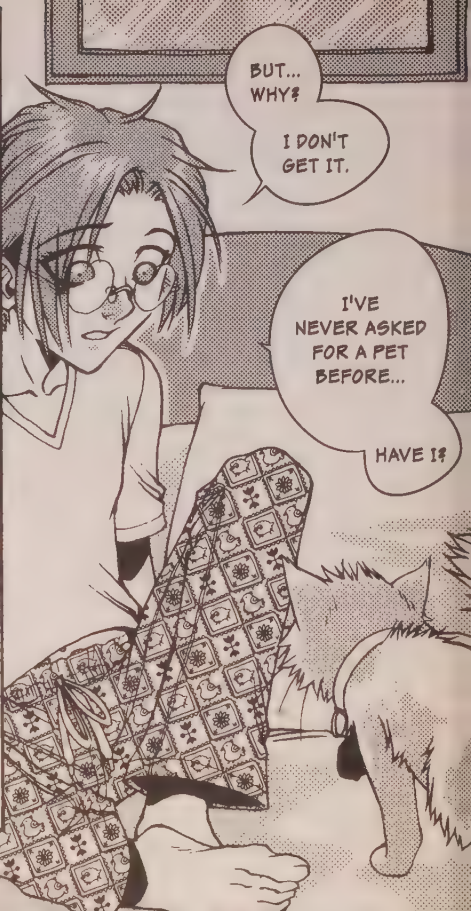
WE
WANTED TO
SURPRISE
YOU WITH...



A CAT?!

SURPRISE!

mew!

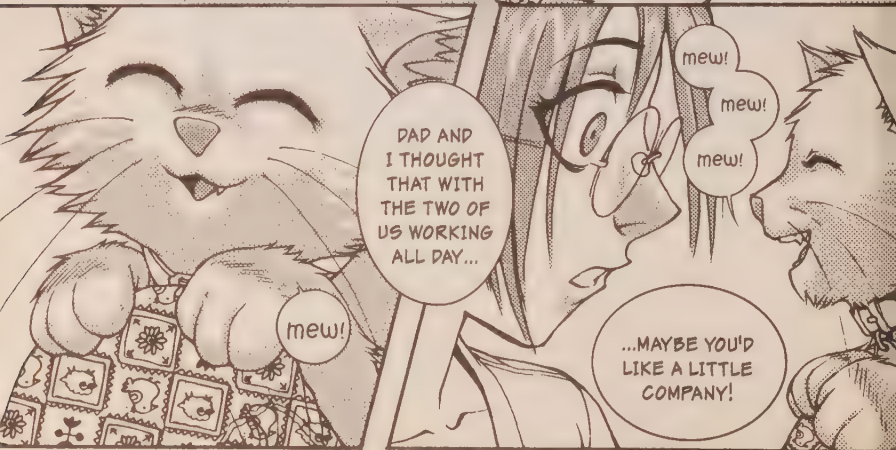


BUT...
WHY?

I DON'T
GET IT.

I'VE
NEVER ASKED
FOR A PET
BEFORE...

HAVE I?



DAD AND
I THOUGHT
THAT WITH
THE TWO OF
US WORKING
ALL DAY...

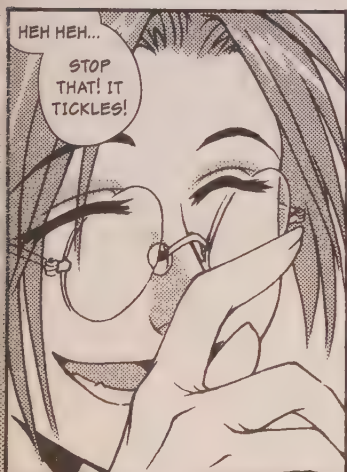
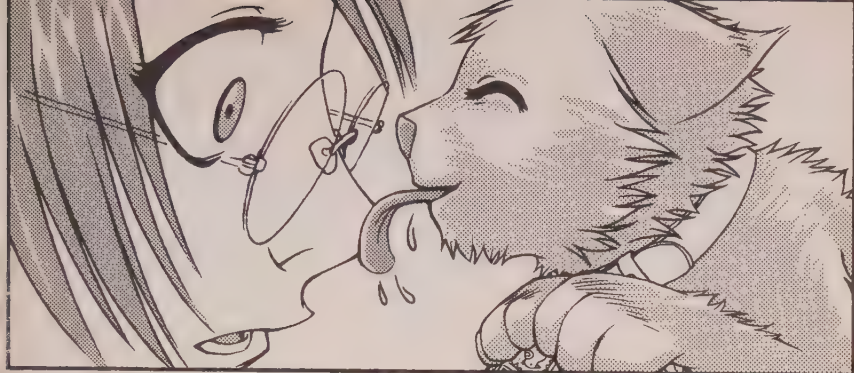
mew!

mew!

mew!

mew!

...MAYBE YOU'D
LIKE A LITTLE
COMPANY!



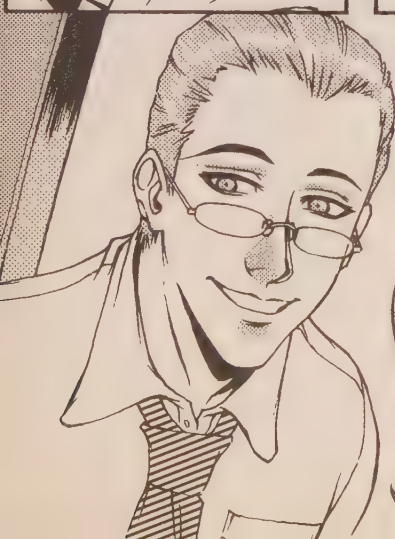
HEH HEH...

STOP
THAT! IT
TICKLES!

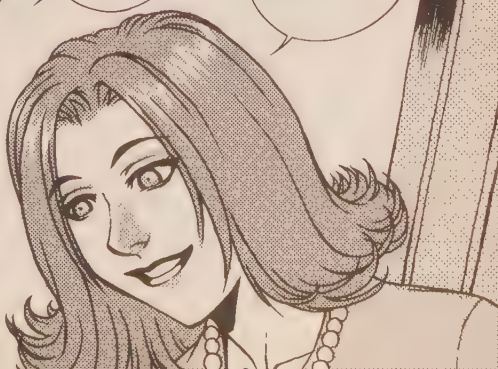


KITTY
KISSES!

mew!



WELL, I'D
SAY THIS
IS WORKING
OUT QUITE
WELL...



NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT!



HEY LI'L
GUY!

WHAT'S
YOUR
NAME?

THE
SHELTER
CALLED HIM
LUKA. HOW
DOES THAT
SOUND TO
YOU?

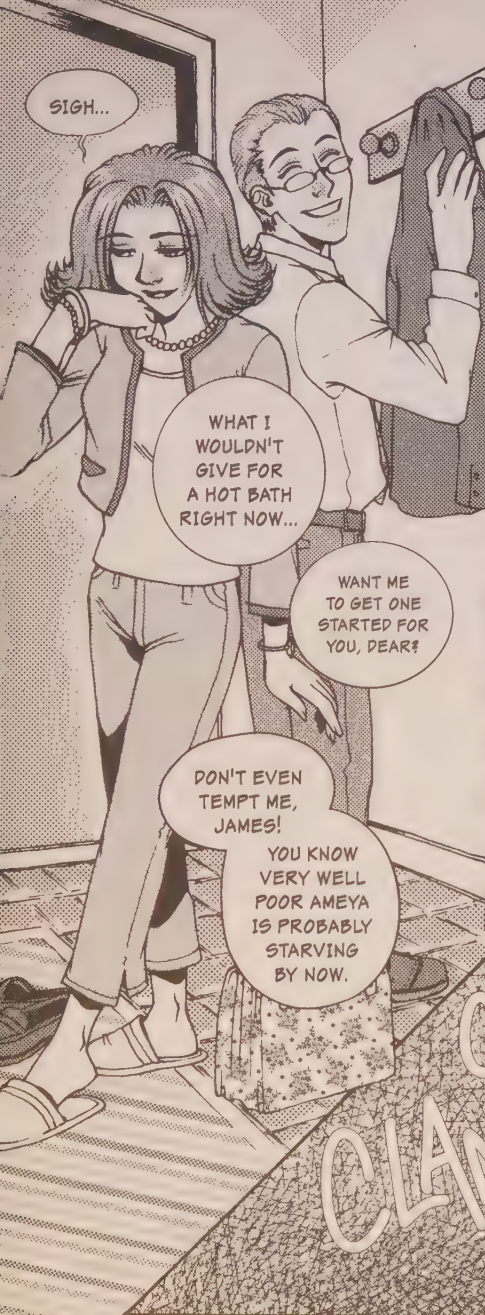
IT
MEANS
BRIGHT
ONE.

LUKA?

LUKA!

FROM NOW
ON, WE'RE
GOING TO
BE BEST
FRIENDS!

mew!



SIGH...

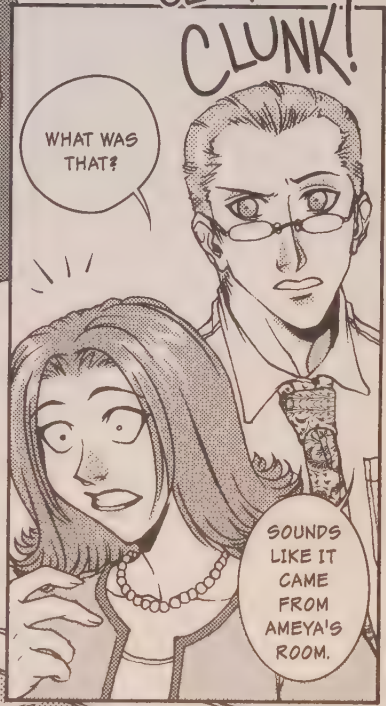
CLINK
CLANK

WHAT I
WOULDN'T
GIVE FOR
A HOT BATH
RIGHT NOW...

WANT ME
TO GET ONE
STARTED FOR
YOU, DEAR?

DON'T EVEN
TEMPT ME,
JAMES!

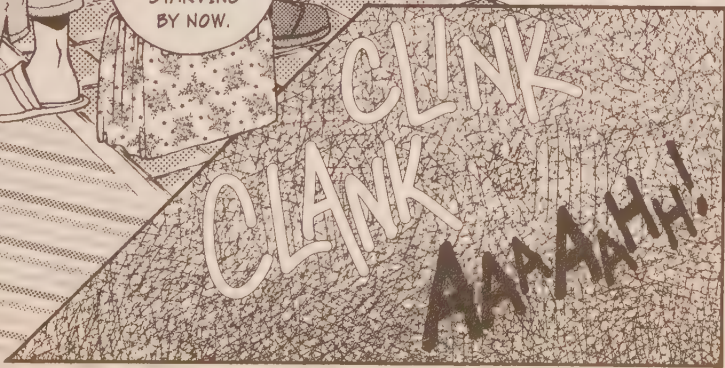
YOU KNOW
VERY WELL
POOR AMEYA
IS PROBABLY
STARVING
BY NOW.



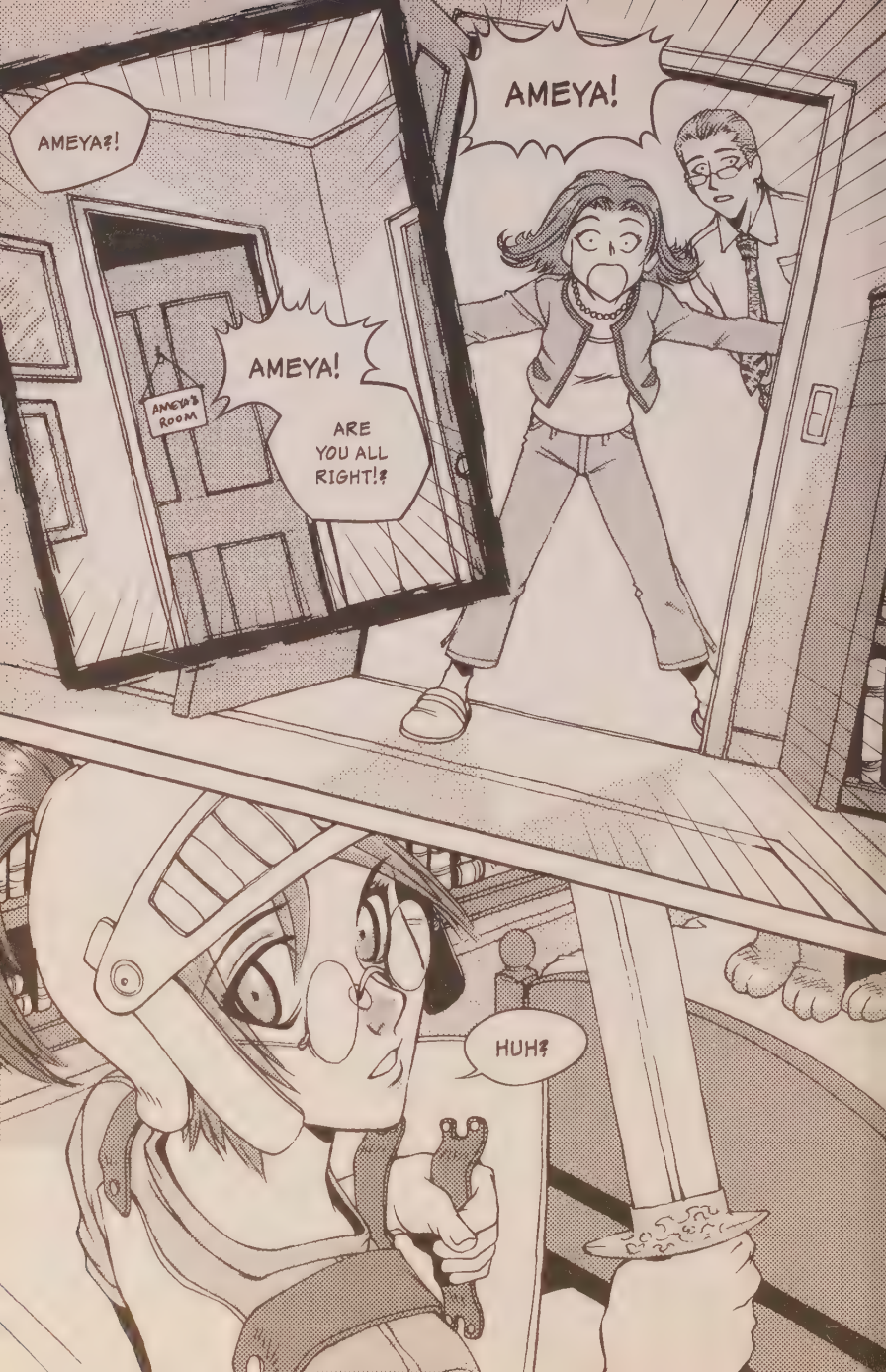
WHAT WAS
THAT?

CLINK
CLANK
CLUNK!

SOUNDS
LIKE IT
CAME
FROM
AMEYA'S
ROOM.



CLINK
CLANK
AHH!



AMEYA?!

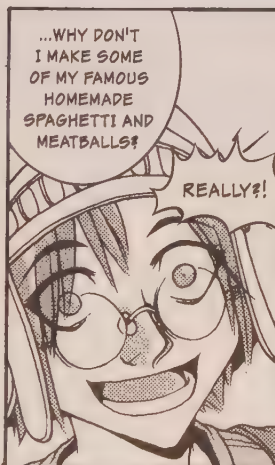
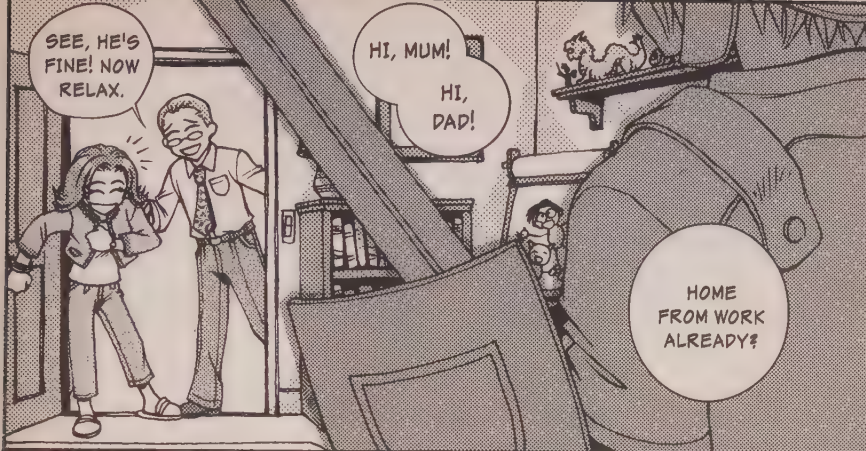
AMEYA!

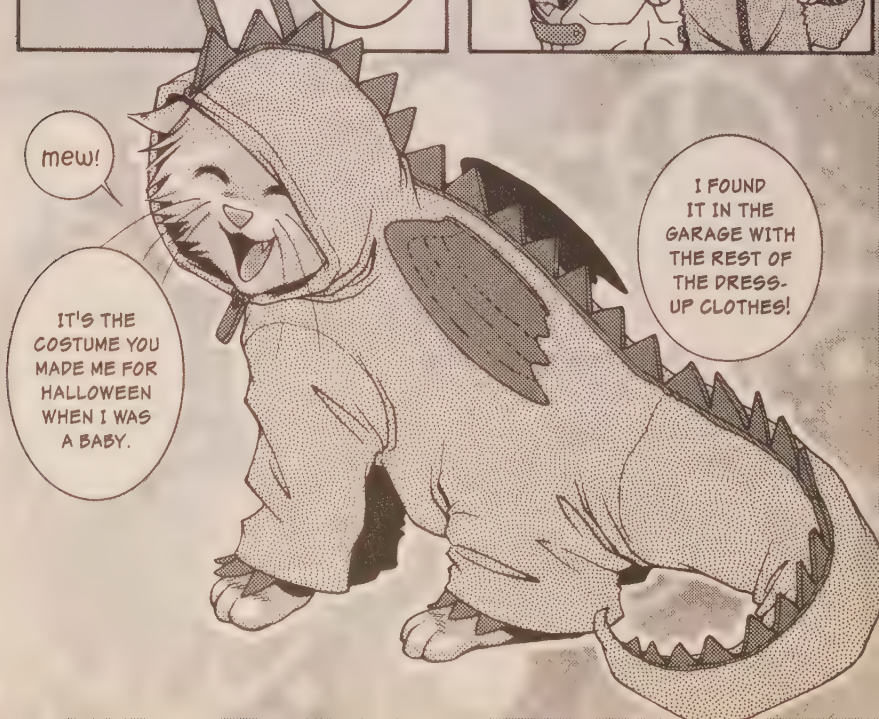
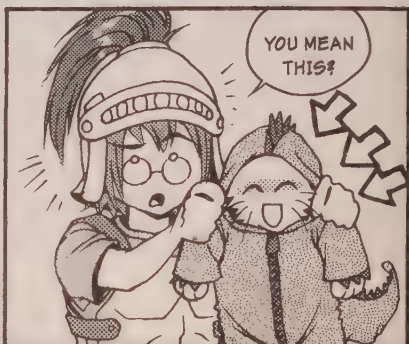
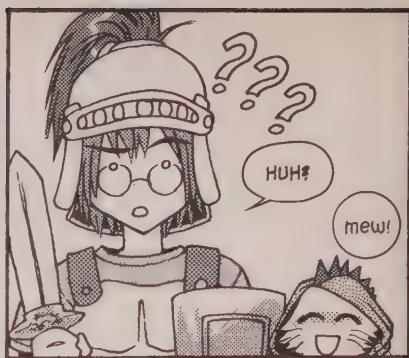
AMEYA!

ARE
YOU ALL
RIGHT!?

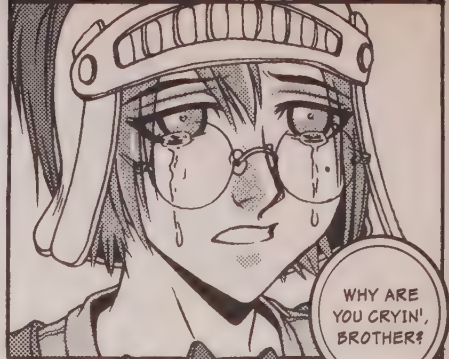
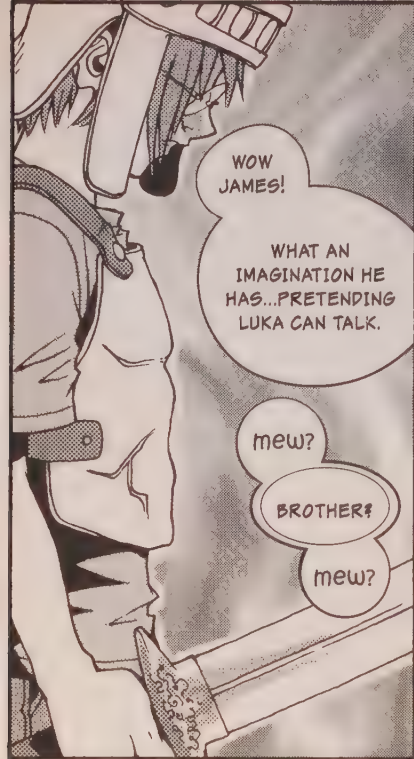
AMEYA'S
ROOM

HUH?











DON'T
WORRY,
BROTHER!



THERE'S
ALWAYS
NEXT
TIME!



WAAHH!

BROTHER?!



PLEASE...LUKA
DON'T EVER
LEAVE ME!

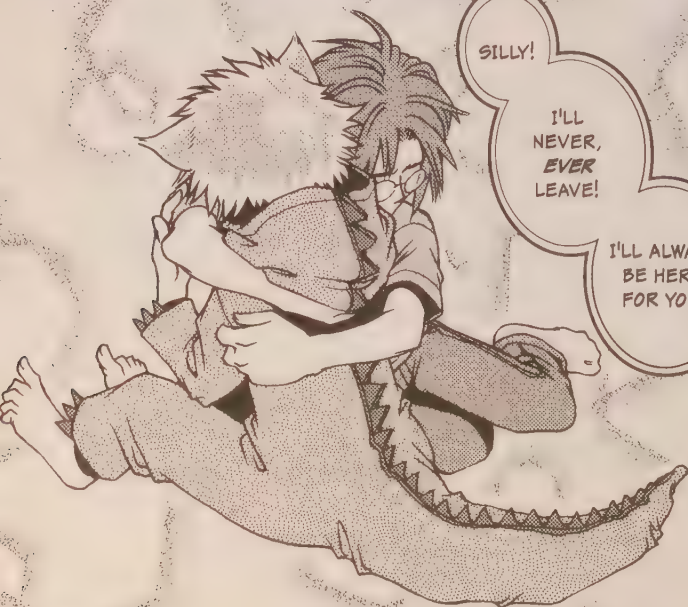
PLEASE!
YOU'RE MY ONLY
FRIEND...



THE ONLY
ONE WHO
UNDERSTANDS
ME!

PLEASE...

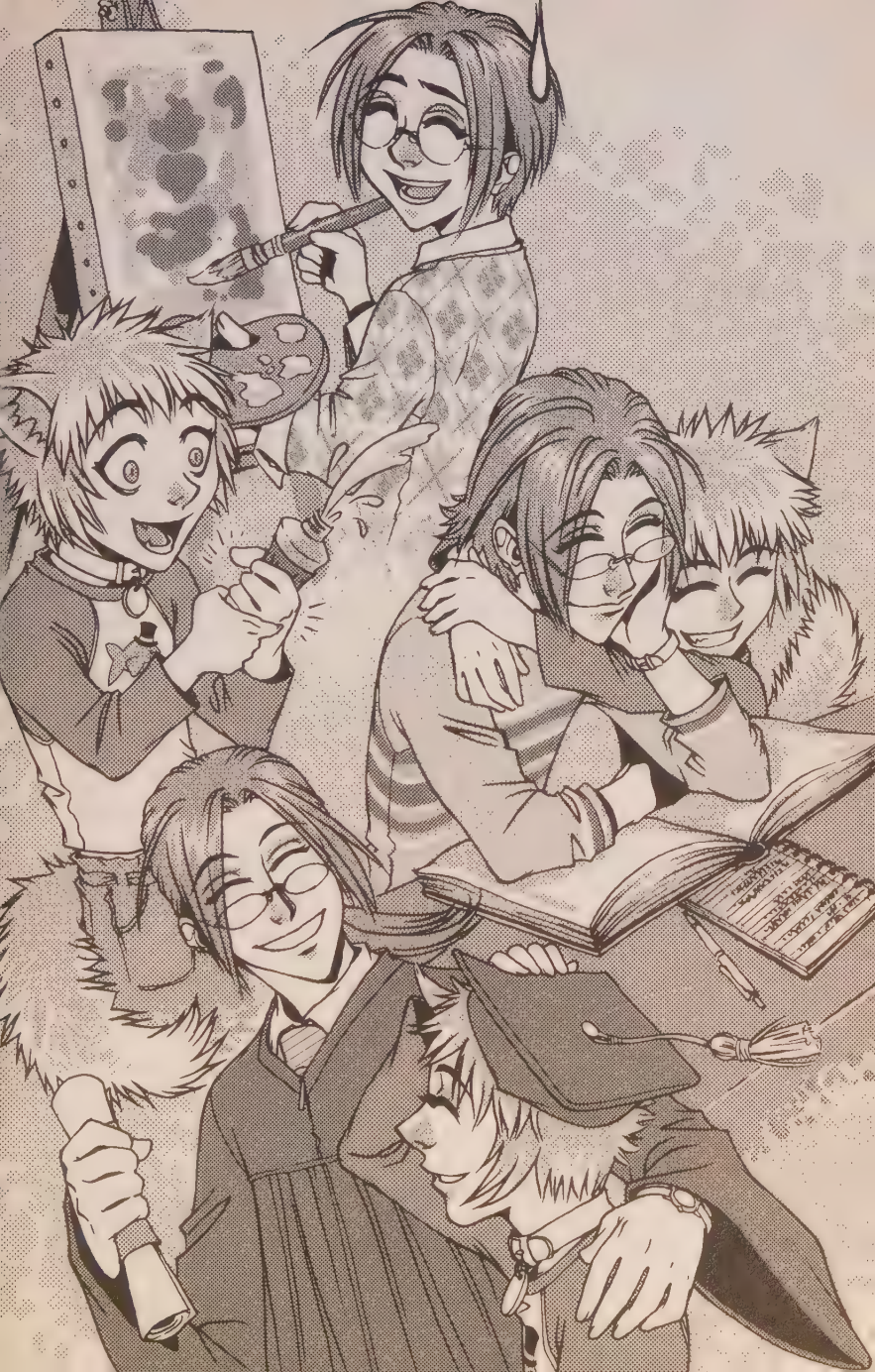
LUKA...
DON'T
EVER
LEAVE
ME!

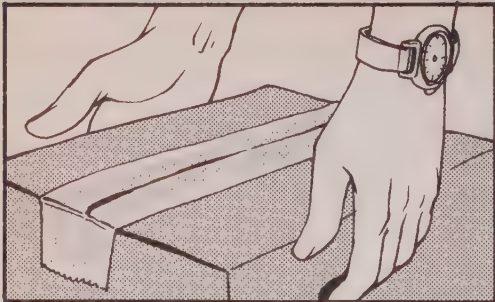


SILLY!

I'LL
NEVER,
EVER
LEAVE!

I'LL ALWAYS
BE HERE
FOR YOU!





ARE YOU SURE
YOU HAVE
EVERYTHING,
AMEYA, DEAR?

YUP!

I'VE ONLY
GOT ONE
SUITCASE
LEFT.

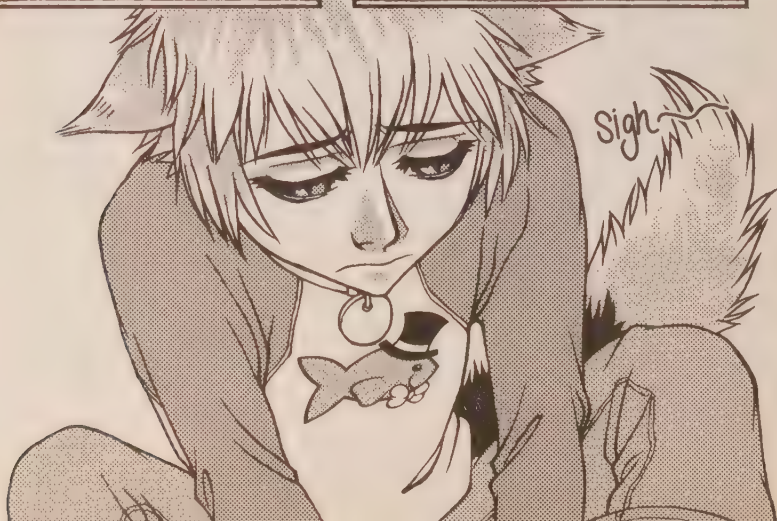


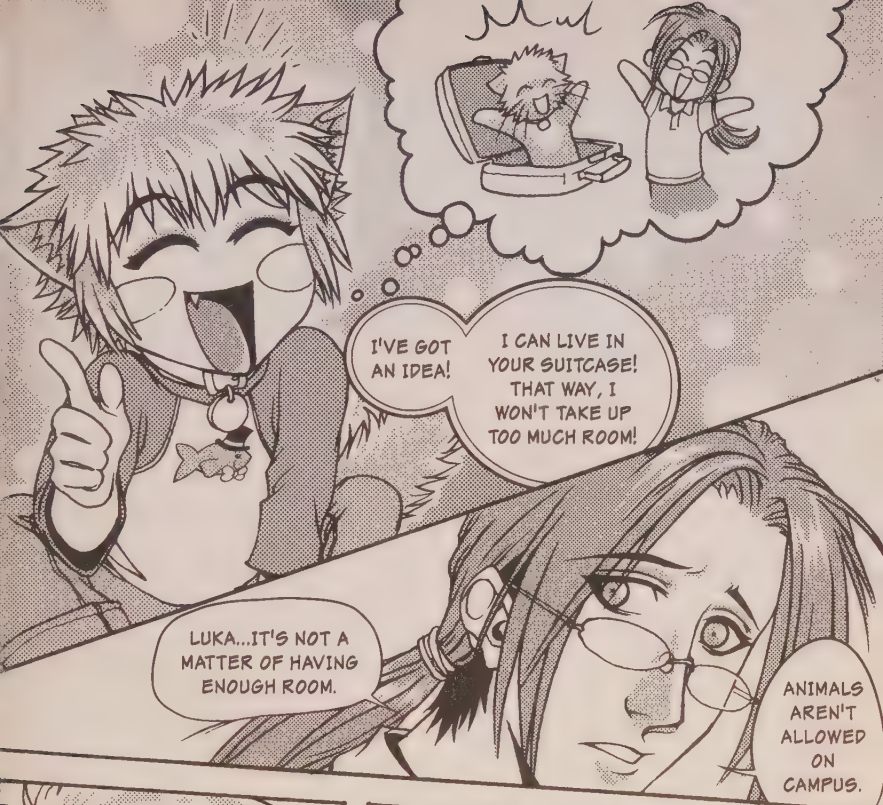
NEED
ANY
HELP?

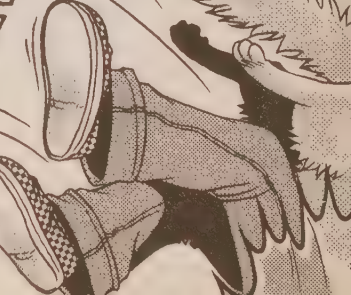
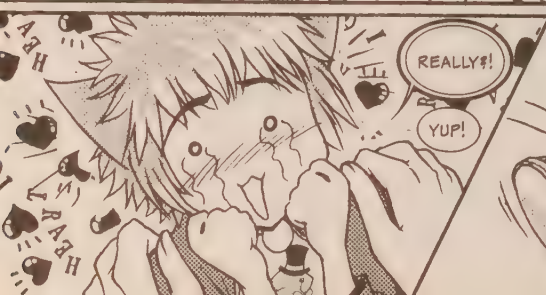
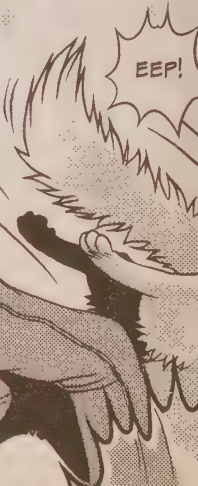
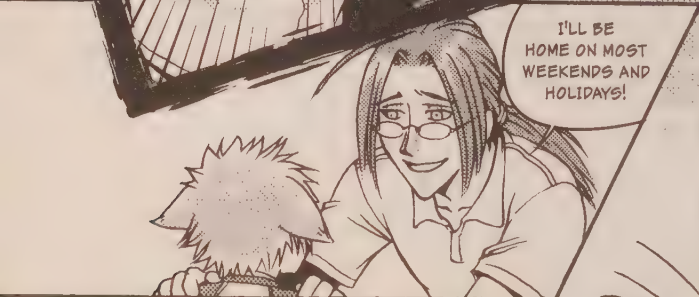
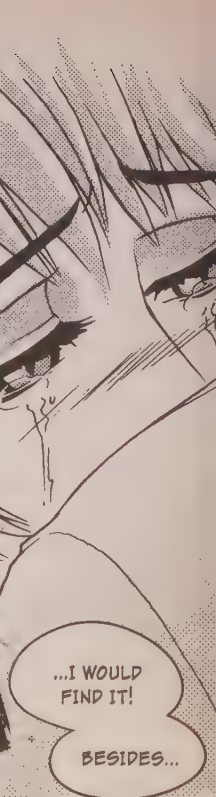
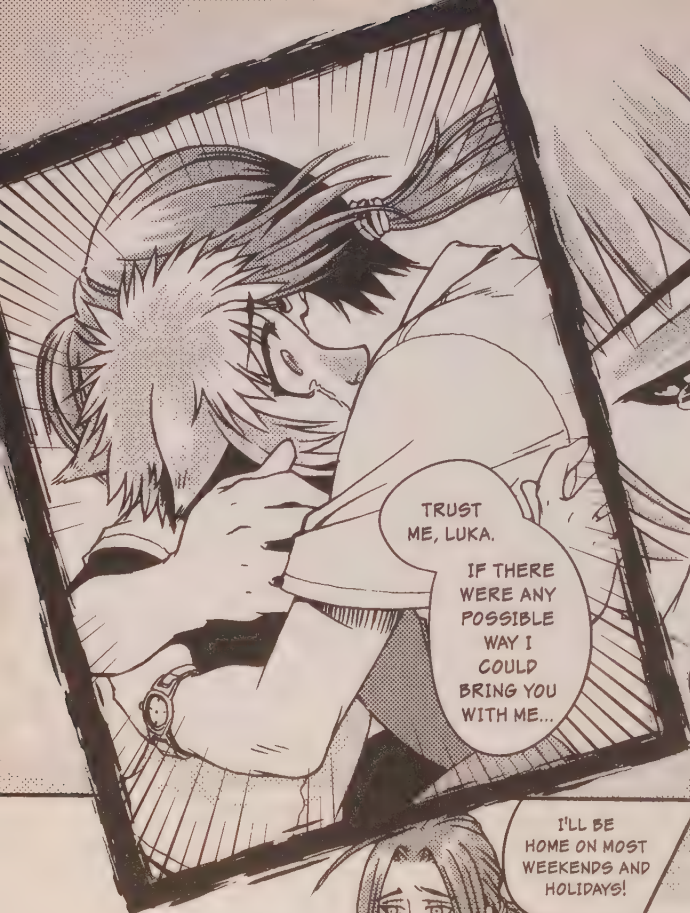


NOPE, I'M
ALL SET,
DAD!

THANKS
ANYWAYS,
THOUGH.









"I'LL
MISS
YOU,
LUKA."

"I'LL
NEVER
FORGET
YOU..."

BUT
AS THE
YEARS
WENT BY...

LIFE HAPPENED...

AND THE TRIPS
HOME BECAME
LESS FREQUENT.



KNOCK
KNOCK!

GOOD
MORNING!

IT'S YOUR
FRIENDLY
NEIGHBORHOOD
AGENT!

HELLOOOOOOOOO....

AMEYA?

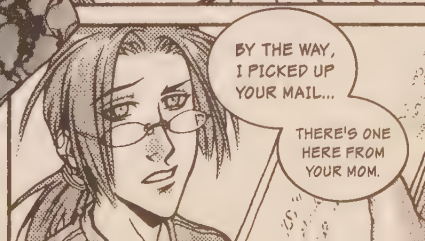
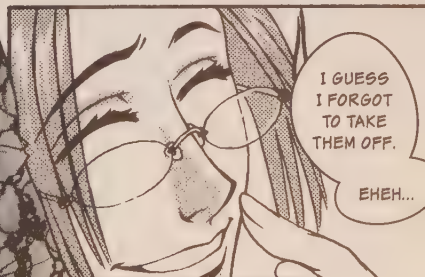
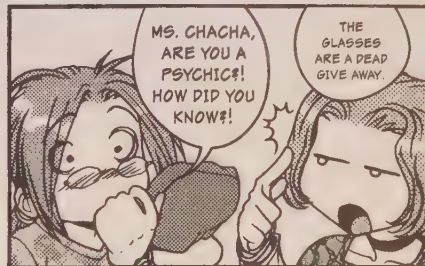
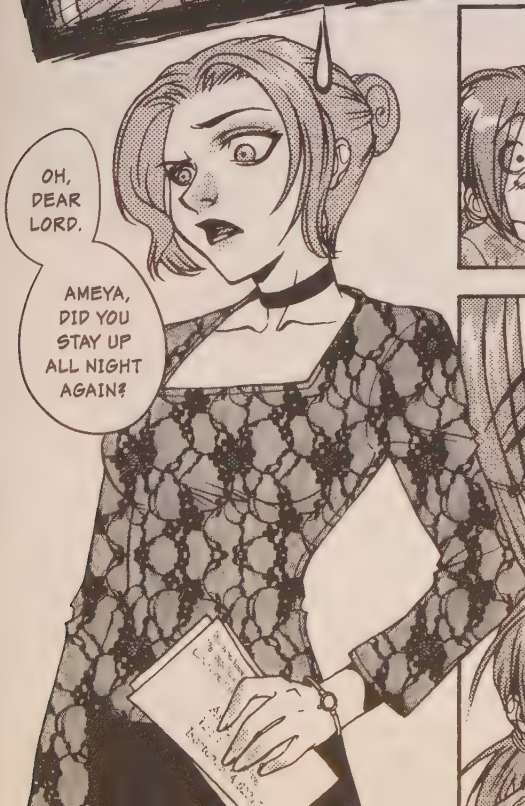
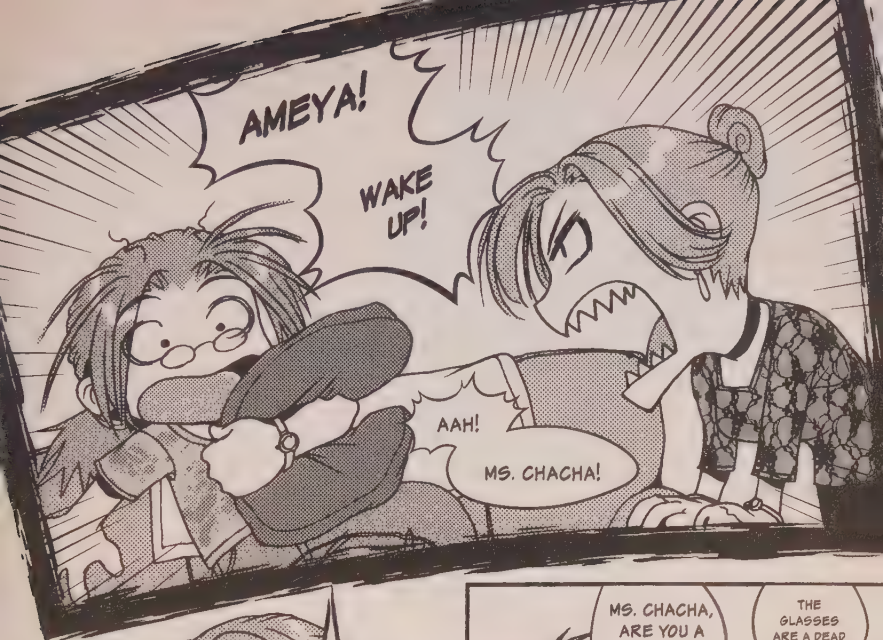
ARE YOU
HERE?

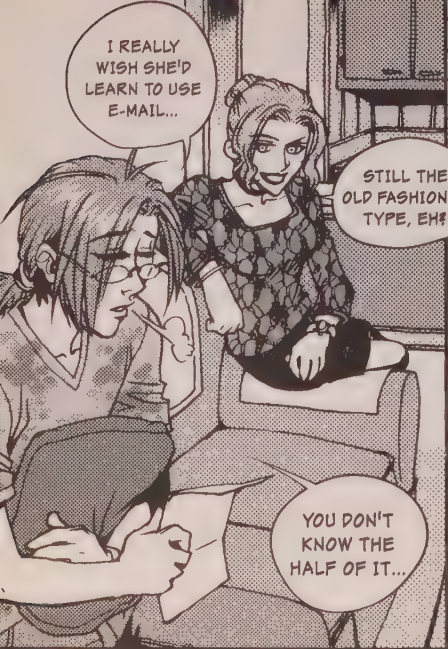
AMEYA?

AAAAAMEEEYA...

MMM...
JUST A
FEW MORE
MINUTES...

HUH?

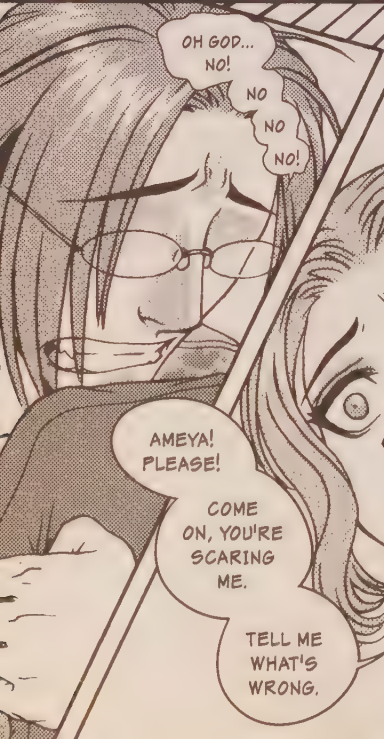




I REALLY
WISH SHE'D
LEARN TO USE
E-MAIL...

STILL THE
OLD FASHIONED
TYPE, EH?

YOU DON'T
KNOW THE
HALF OF IT...



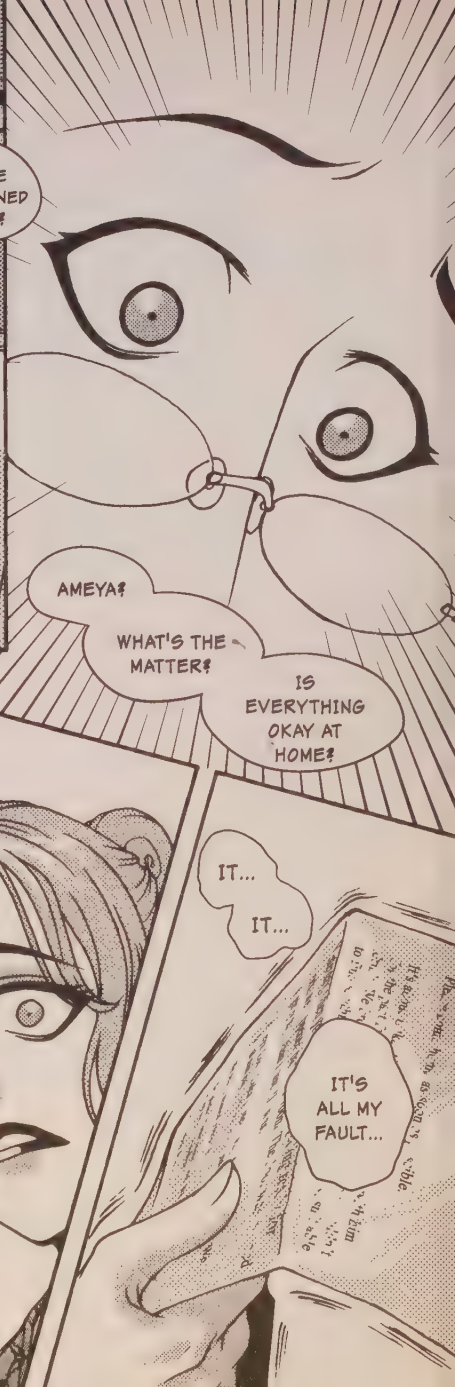
OH GOD...
NO!

NO
NO
NO
NO!

AMEYA!
PLEASE!

COME
ON, YOU'RE
SCARING
ME.

TELL ME
WHAT'S
WRONG.



AMEYA?

WHAT'S THE
MATTER?

IS
EVERYTHING
OKAY AT
HOME?

IT...

IT...

IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT...

AMEYA?

WHAT'S
GOING ON?

WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

HOME.

WAIT A
MINUTE!

YOU HAVE
THE NEW
YORK SHOW
IN A FEW
DAYS.

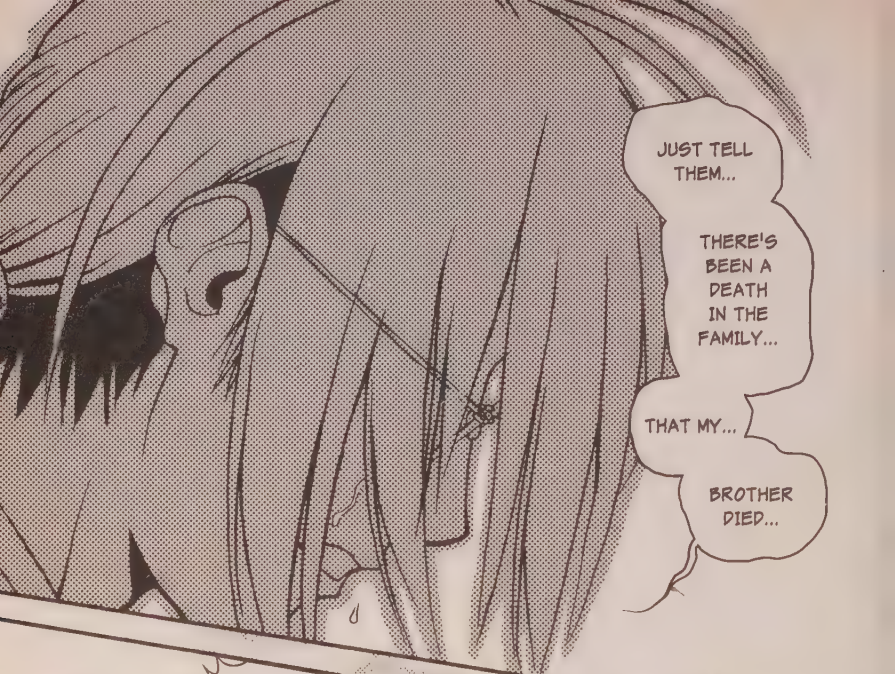
IT'S OUR
BIGGEST SHOW
OF THE YEAR.

THOUSANDS OF
PEOPLE WILL
BE THERE!

THEY'VE
BEEN
WAITING
FOR THIS
EVENT FOR
MONTHS!

WHAT AM
I GOING TO
TELL THEM,
AMEYA?

HOW AM I
GOING TO
EXPLAIN WHY
YOU'RE NOT
THERE?



JUST TELL
THEM...

THERE'S
BEEN A
DEATH
IN THE
FAMILY...

THAT MY...

BROTHER
DIED...

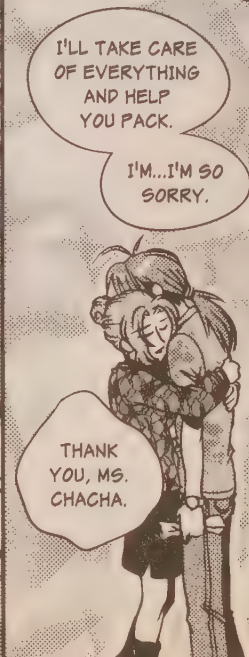


WHAT?!
OH, GOD!



AMEYA...

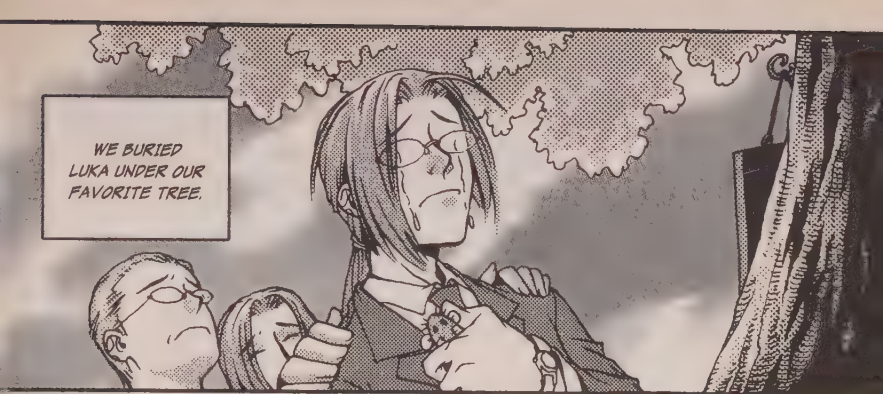
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THE
SHOW.



I'LL TAKE CARE
OF EVERYTHING
AND HELP
YOU PACK.

I'M...I'M SO
SORRY.

THANK
YOU, MS.
CHACHA.



WE BURIED
LUKA UNDER OUR
FAVORITE TREE.



I KNEW
THAT...

...HE
WOULD
HAVE
WANTED
IT THAT
WAY.



I'M SORRY,
MS. CHACHA...

BUT
I'M NOT
COMING
BACK...
FOR A
WHILE.

WHAT?!
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?

AMEYA,
PLEASE!



WE'VE
WORKED
SO HARD
FOR
THIS!

YOU CAN'T
JUST LEAVE!

I'M
SORRY...
BUT...

I CAN'T
DO THIS
ANYMORE.

AMEYA...
LISTEN...



AT
LEAST COME
BACK...WE
CAN FIGURE
THINGS
OUT THEN.

JUST...
PLEASE...
DON'T
LEAVE ME,
PLEASE...



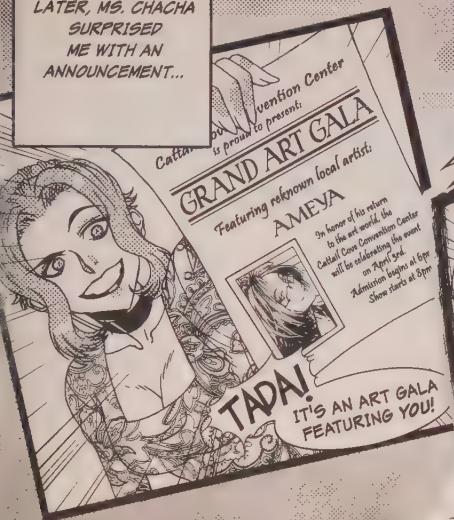
SEVERAL MONTHS
LATER, AFTER
MUCH CONVINCING
FROM MS. CHACHA,
I OPENED UP A
NEW GALLERY IN
MY HOMETOWN.

BUT DESPITE
THE RANGE
OF ARTISTS
WE FEATURED
MONTHLY...

...THE
GALLERY
LACKED MY
OWN WORKS.

LUKA WAS GONE...
AND WITH HIM,
MY DREAMS AND
INSPIRATIONS.

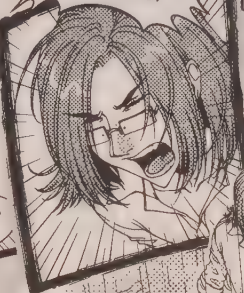
THREE YEARS
LATER, MS. CHACHA
SURPRISED
ME WITH AN
ANNOUNCEMENT...



BUT...ME
BEING THE
STUBBORN
ONE,
WOULDN'T
HEAR OF IT...

AND IT
ONLY MADE
MATTERS
WORSE.

SHUT UP!!!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA
WHAT IT'S LIKE!



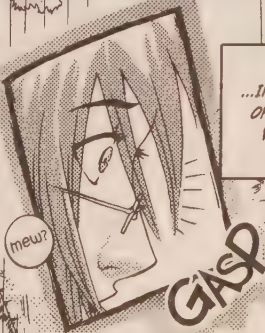
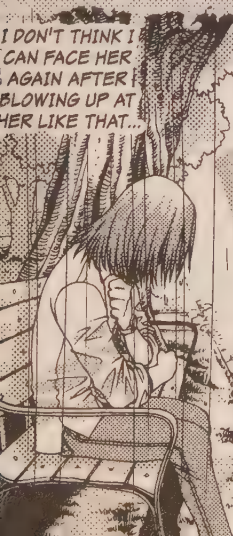
IN A FIT OF ANGER AND
FRUSTRATION, I FOUND
MYSELF OUT IN THE RAIN...

LITTLE DID I
KNOW WHAT
FATE HAD IN
STORE FOR ME...

I DON'T THINK I
CAN FACE HER
AGAIN AFTER
BLOWING UP AT
HER LIKE THAT...

NOPE...
I DEFINITELY
HEARD IT!

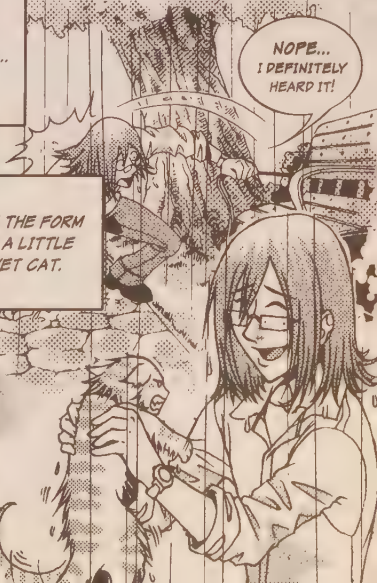
...IN THE FORM
OF A LITTLE
WET CAT.

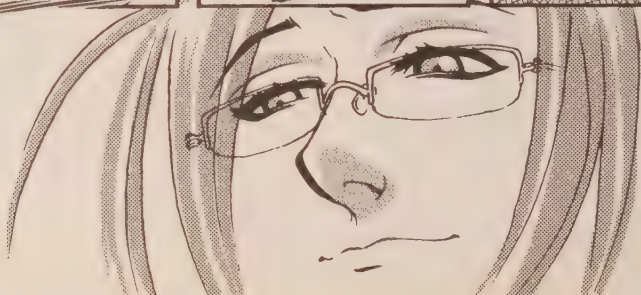
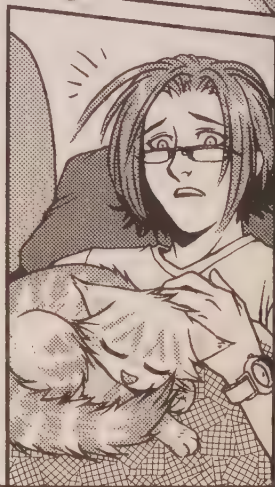
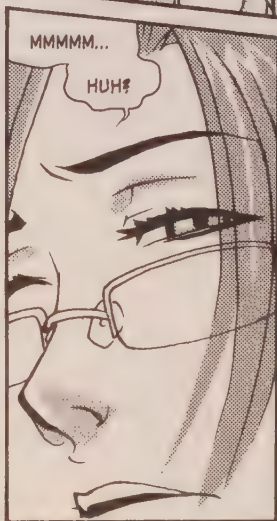
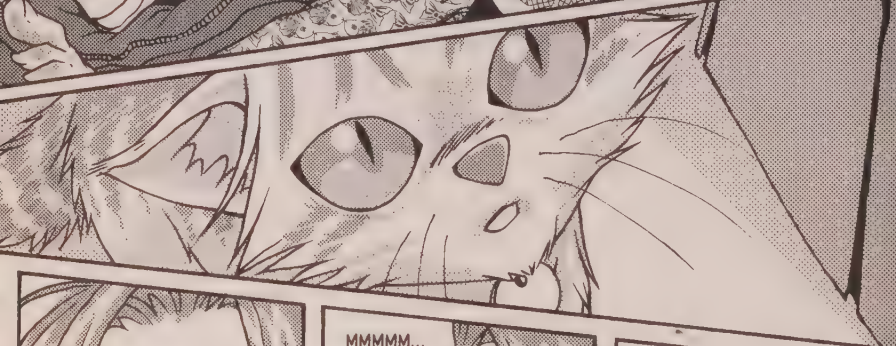
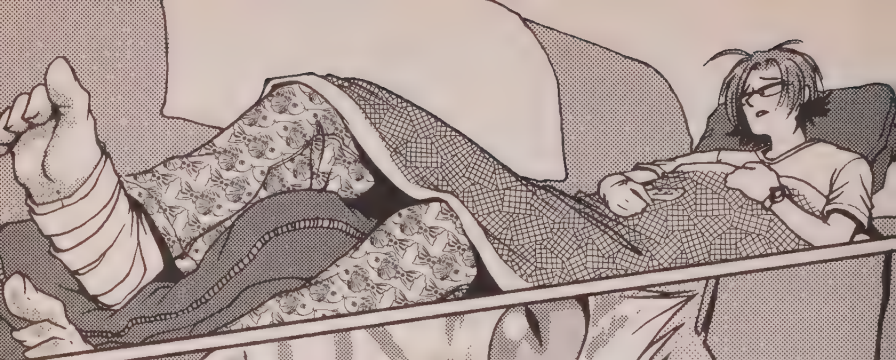


mew?

GASP

flick
flick

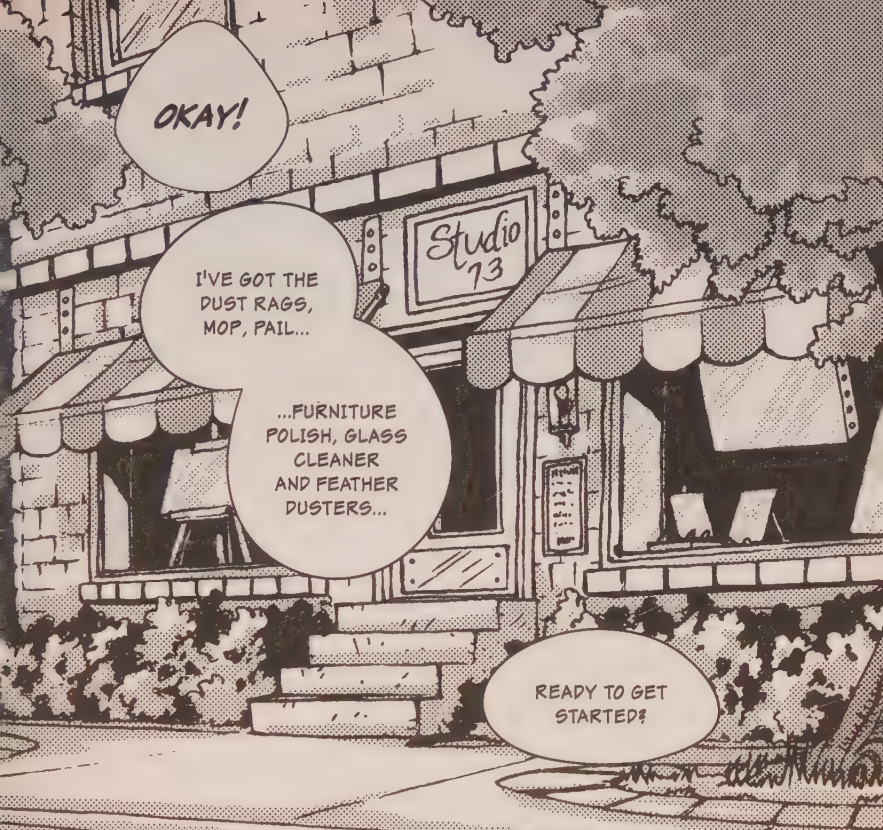




CHAPTER 2





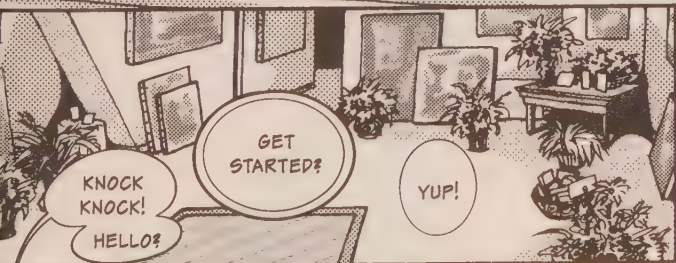


OKAY!

I'VE GOT THE
DUST RAGS,
MOP, PAIL...

...FURNITURE
POLISH, GLASS
CLEANER
AND FEATHER
DUSTERS...

READY TO GET
STARTED?



KNOCK
KNOCK!
HELLO?

GET
STARTED?

YUP!



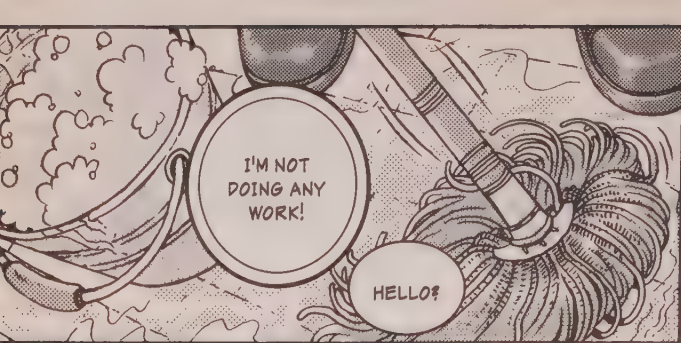
TODAY WE'RE
CLEANING
THE GALLERY
AND STUDIO.



AMEYA?

WE?

WAIT A
MINUTE!



I'M NOT
DOING ANY
WORK!

HELLO?



CATS DON'T
DO WORK...

ESPECIALLY NOT
HOUSEWORK!

AMEYA,
WHO'RE YOU
TALKING TO?

THAT'S WHAT
HUMANS
ARE FOR!



AMEYA?

BUT
LOKI...

...A LITTLE
HOUSEWORK
WON'T HURT
YOU...

YES, IT
WOULD!



OH,
COME ON,
LOKI.

TRUST ME.

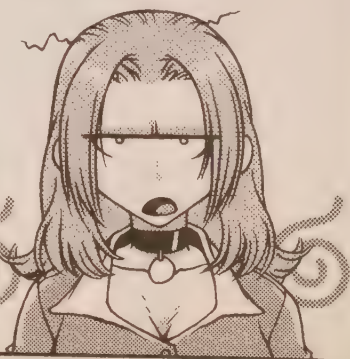
IT'LL BE
FUN!

flick
flick

OH...

MY...

GOD!



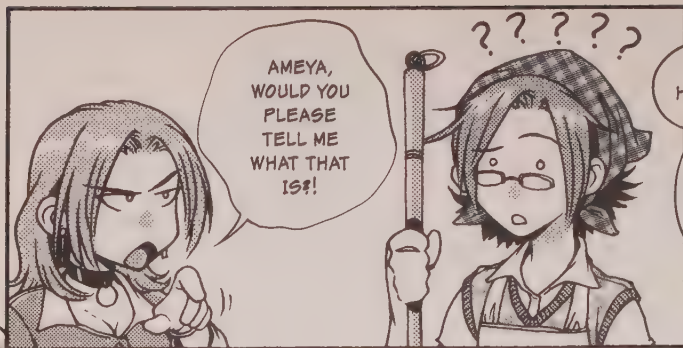


JUST CRAWL
UNDER THE
DESK...

...AND
CHASE
THOSE DUST
BUNNIES
OUT...

OH!

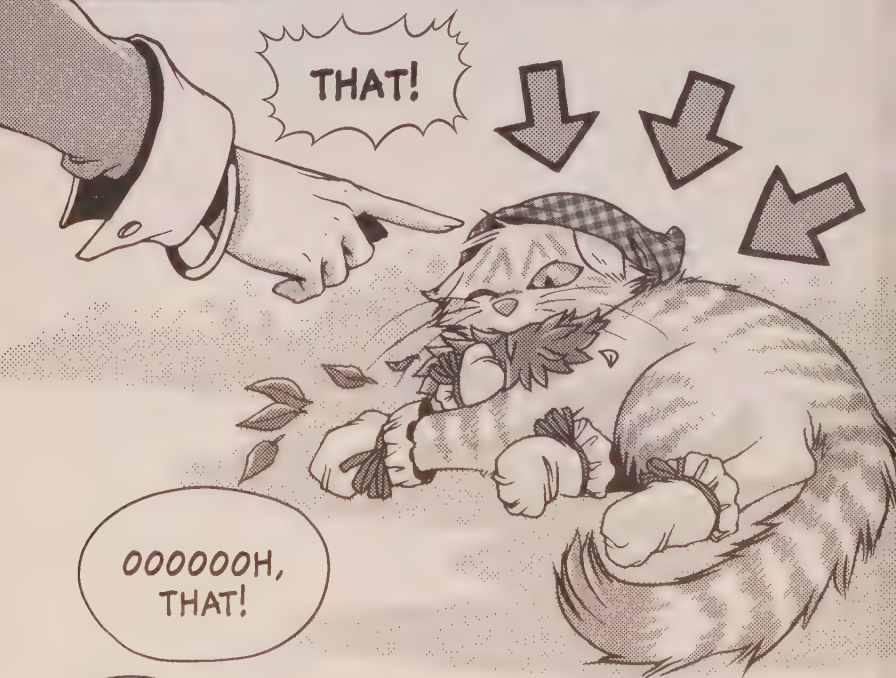
HI, MS.
CHACHA!



AMEYA,
WOULD YOU
PLEASE
TELL ME
WHAT THAT
IS!

HUH?

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN?

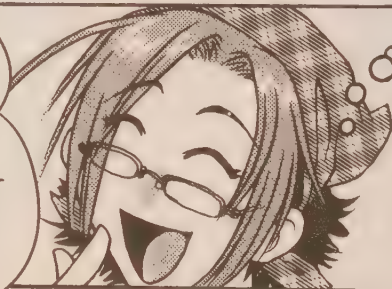


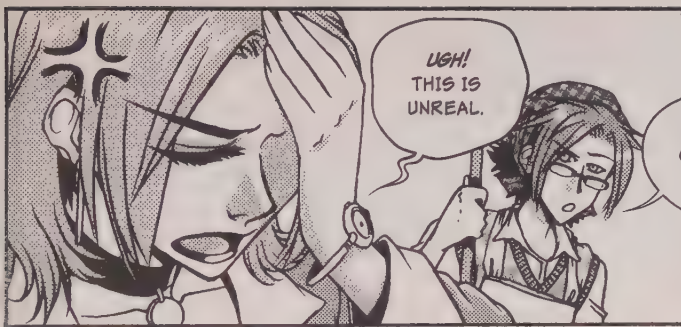
THAT!

OOOOOOH,
THAT!

I FIGURED
IF HE HELPED
ME WITH THE
CLEANING...

...WE'D GET
IT DONE
TWICE AS
FAST!





UGH!
THIS IS
UNREAL.

ARE YOU
OKAY, MS.
CHACHA?

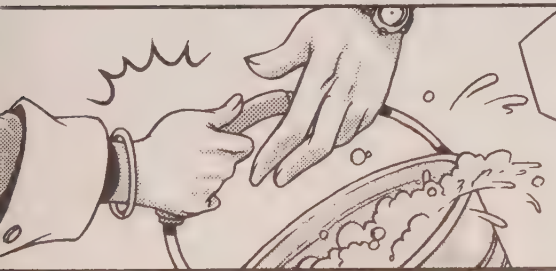
YOU DON'T
LOOK SO
WELL.



GIVE ME
THAT!

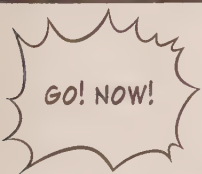


HUH?



AND THIS,
TOO!

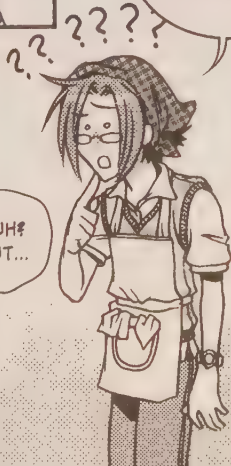
MS. CHACHA,
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?



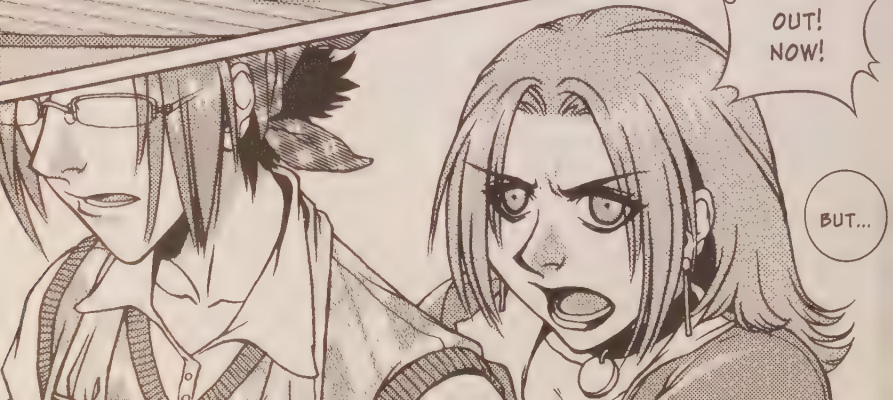
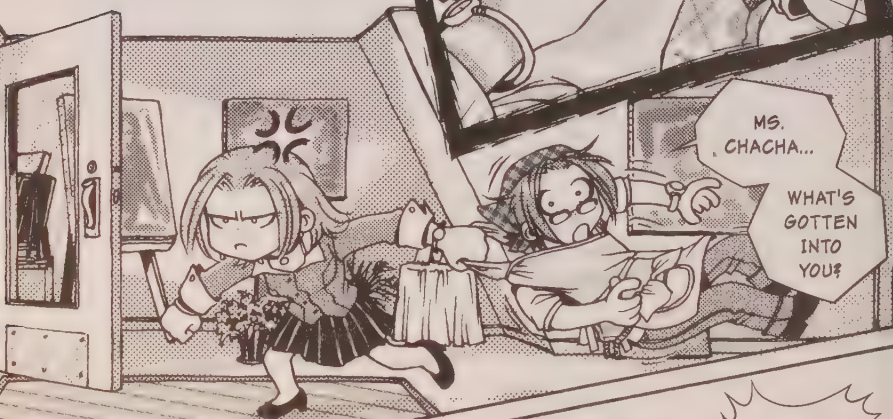
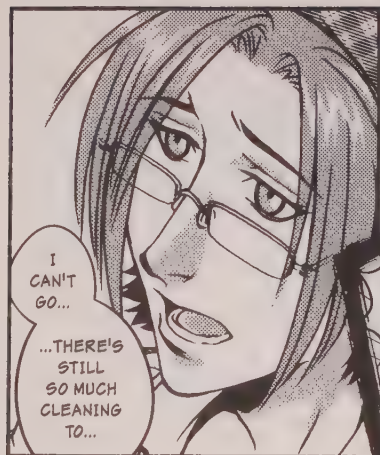
GO! NOW!

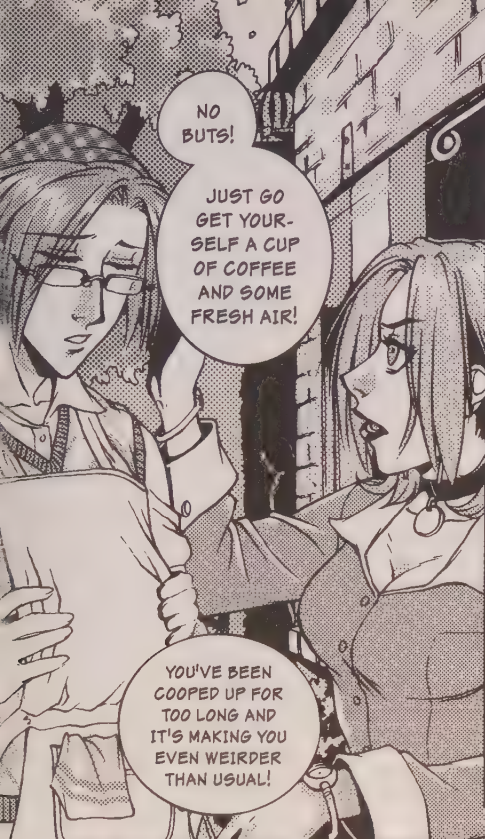


HUH?
BUT...



???



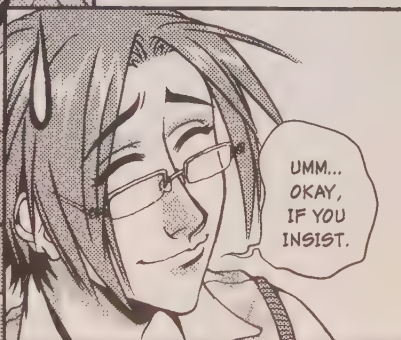


NO
BUTS!

JUST GO
GET YOUR-
SELF A CUP
OF COFFEE
AND SOME
FRESH AIR!

YOU'VE BEEN
COOPED UP FOR
TOO LONG AND
IT'S MAKING YOU
EVEN WEIRDER
THAN USUAL!

BESIDES, I
THINK LOKI
AND I CAN
HANDLE
A LITTLE
CLEANING.



UMM...
OKAY,
IF YOU
INSIST.



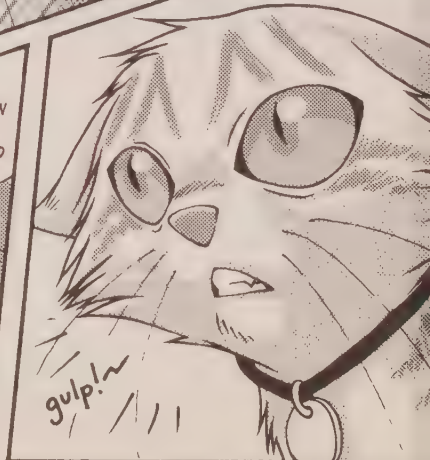
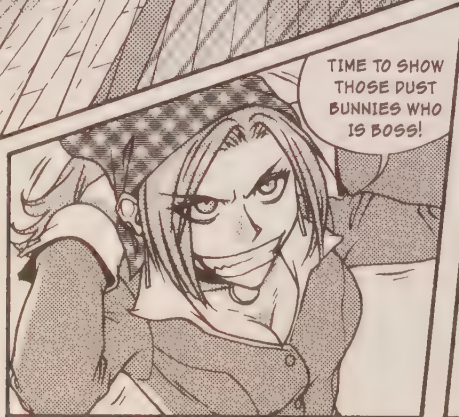
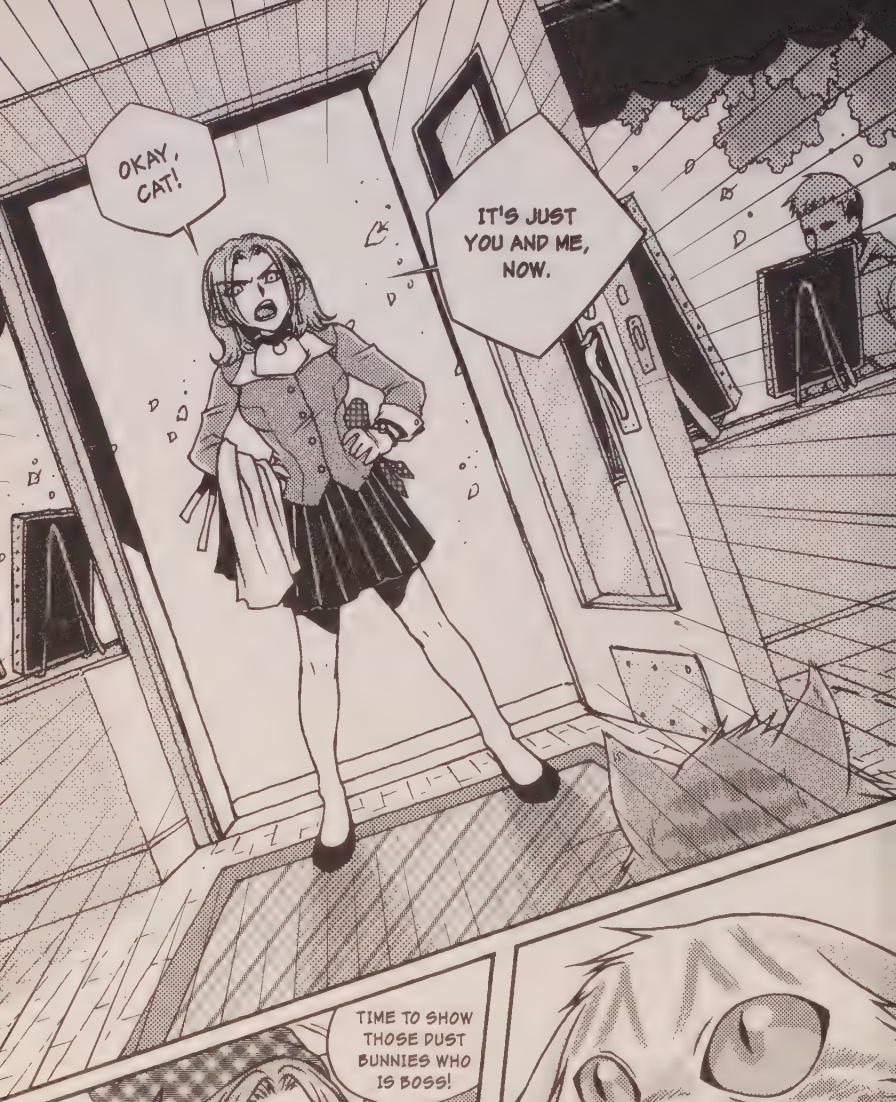
TA-TAH!

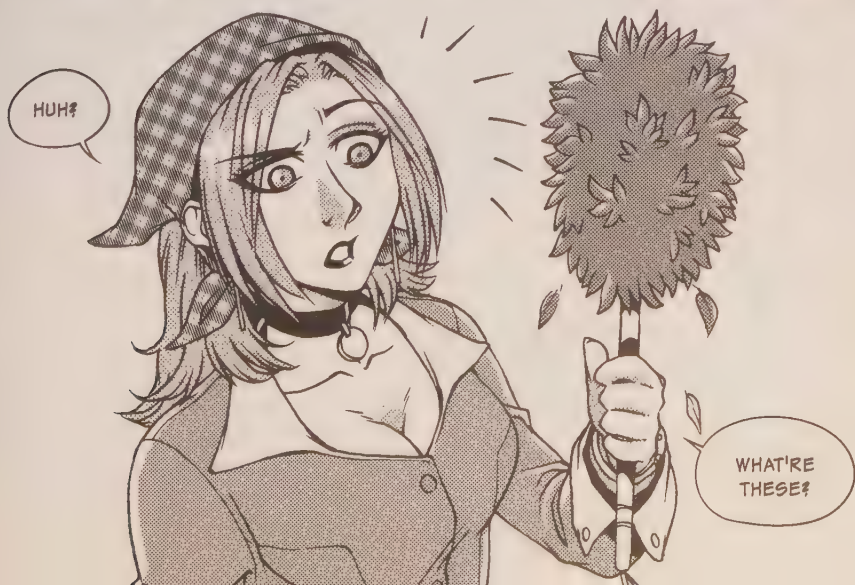
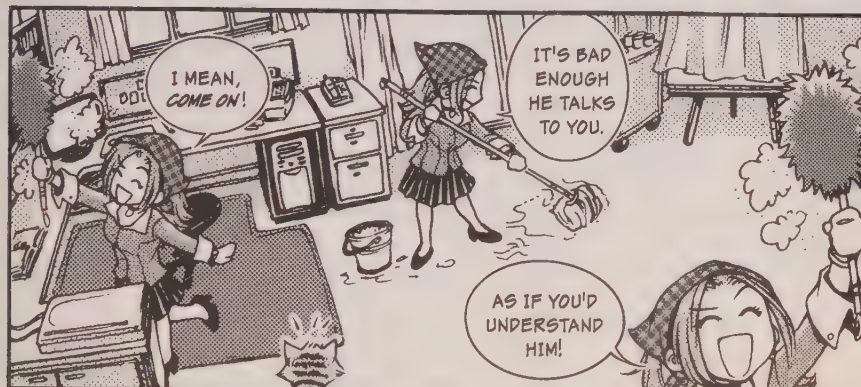
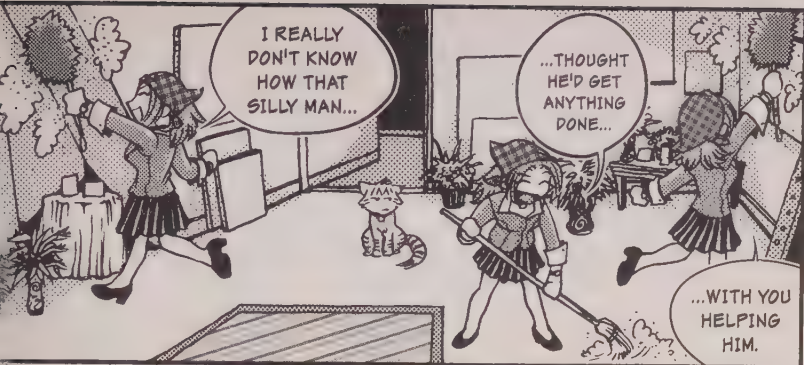
HAVE
FUN!

SAY
HELLO TO
TIM FOR
ME!



BAKE
SALE
20%
OFF
ALL
ITEMS







SKETCHES?!

The scene shows a character's desk cluttered with several sketches of a character with long, dark hair. A clipboard with a sketch is leaning against the desk. A small wooden box containing drawing tools like pencils and pens sits on the floor next to the desk. A character's hand is visible, holding a pencil over a sketch on the floor.

IS HE...?

NO WAY!

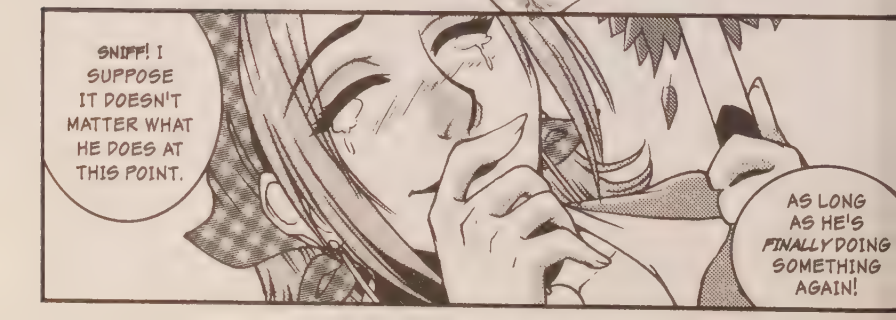
THEY'RE SO
BIZARRE...

CAT BOYS,
AMEYA?
REALLY?



A character with long, dark hair and a headband is holding a large sketch of a character with long, dark hair. The character is looking at the sketch with a slight smile.

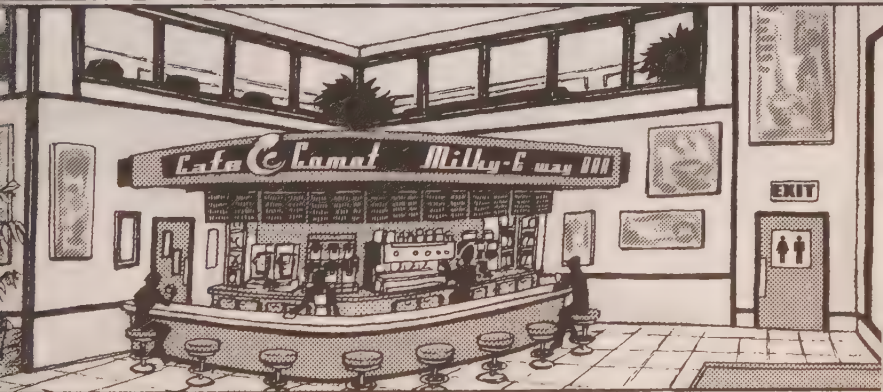
HEH. THEY
KIND OF
LOOK LIKE
YOU, LOKI...

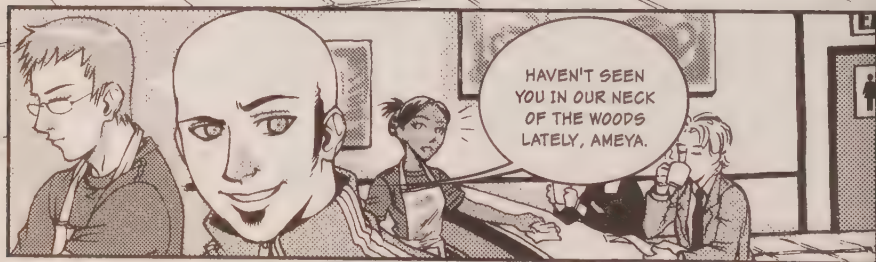
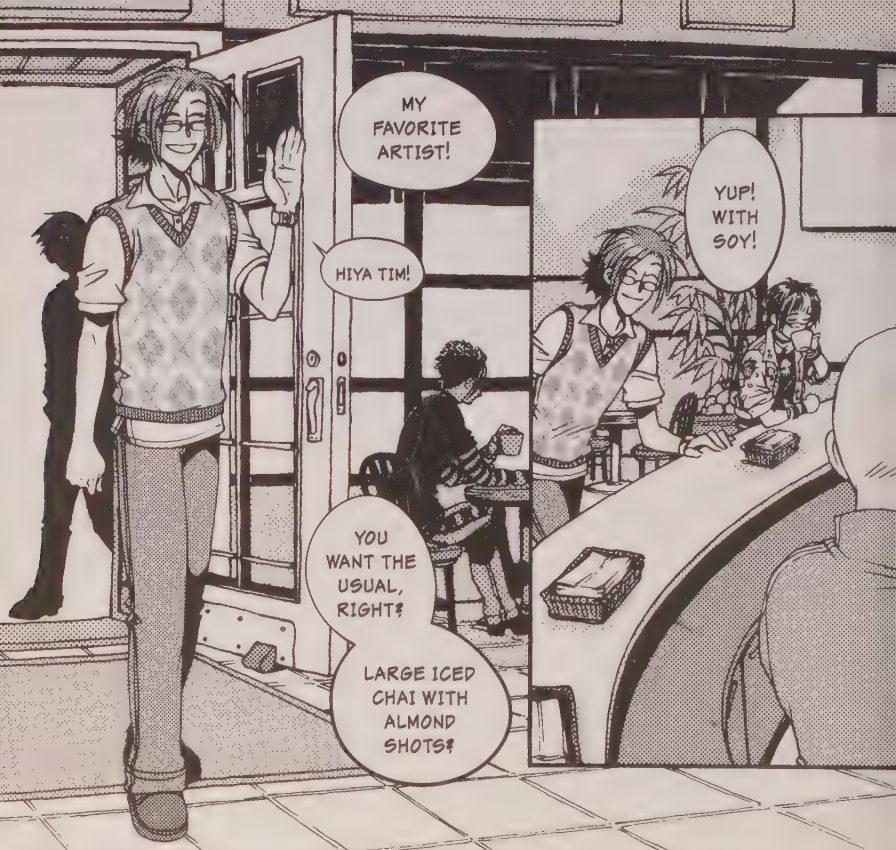


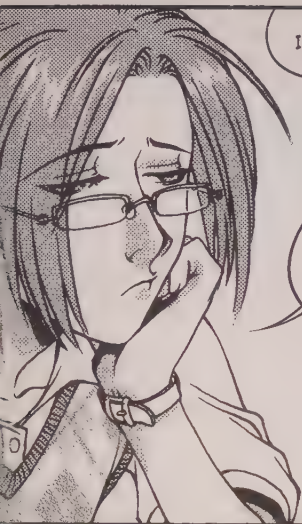
A close-up of a character's face in profile, looking down with a thoughtful expression. The character has long, dark hair and is wearing a headband.

SNIFF! I
SUPPOSE
IT DOESN'T
MATTER WHAT
HE DOES AT
THIS POINT.

AS LONG
AS HE'S
FINALLY DOING
SOMETHING
AGAIN!





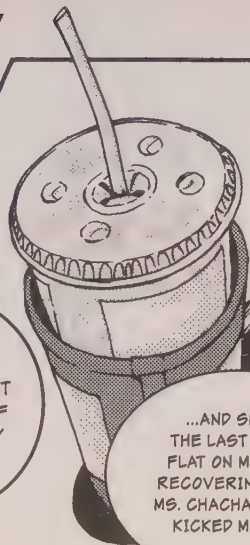


INSTEAD...

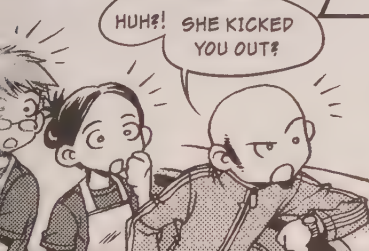
I GOT INTO
A FIGHT
WITH MS.
CHACHA...

...FOUND
A STRAY
CAT...

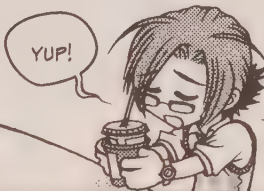
...GOT INTO
AN ACCIDENT
BECAUSE OF
SAID STRAY
CAT...



...AND SPENT
THE LAST MONTH
FLAT ON MY BACK
RECOVERING UNTIL
MS. CHACHA FINALLY
KICKED ME OUT!



HUH?! SHE KICKED
YOU OUT?



YUP!

AND ALL
BECAUSE I
ASKED LOKI
TO HELP ME
CLEAN THE
STUDIO.

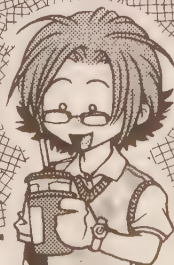


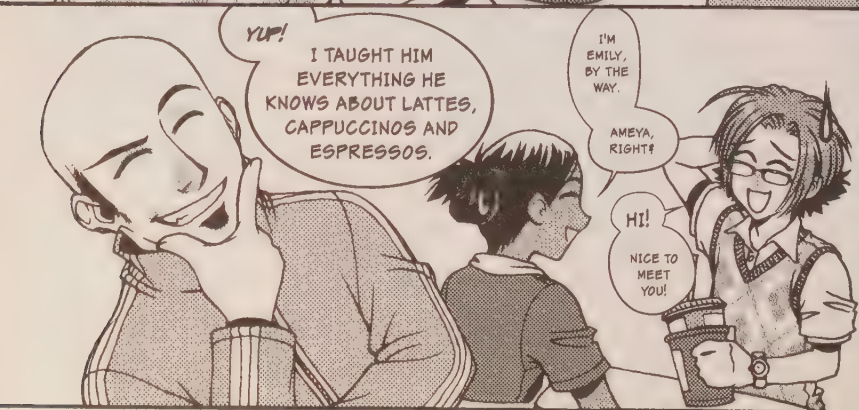
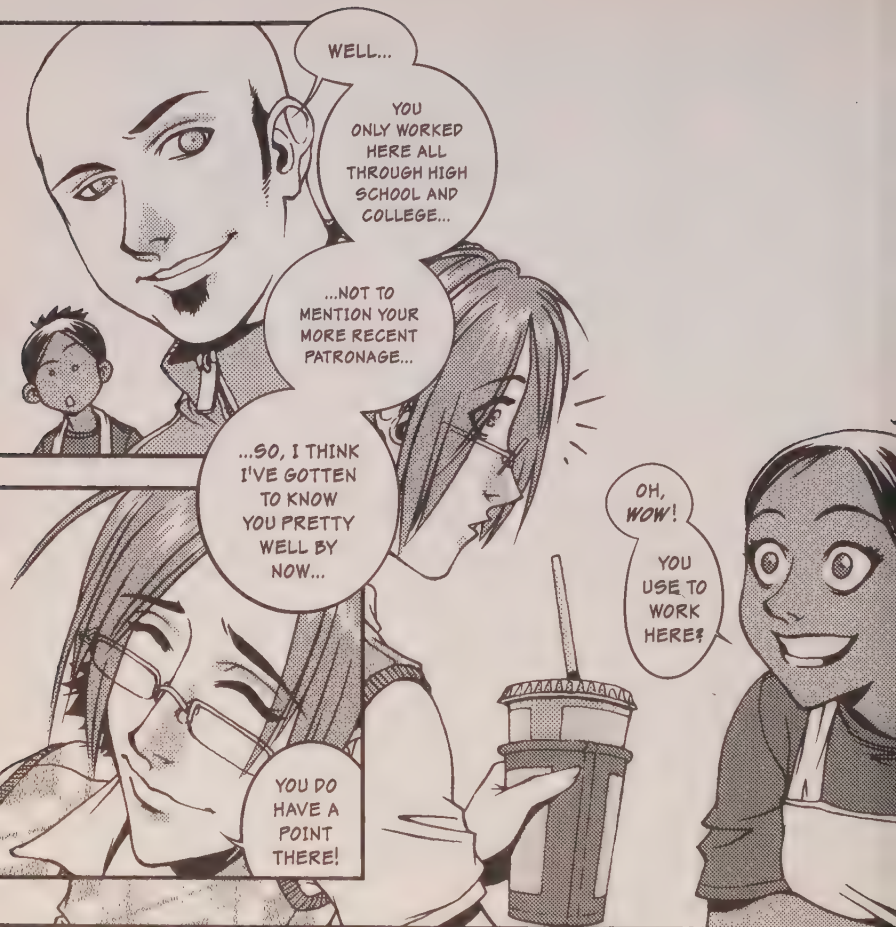
LOKI?

LOKI
WOULDN'T
HAPPEN TO BE
THAT STRAY
CAT YOU PICKED
UP, WOULD
HE?

HEY!

HOW'D YOU
KNOW?!







AH,
YES!

GOOD TIMES!
GOOD TIMES!

A LOT
OF HISTORY HAS
BEEN MADE UNDER
THIS CAFÉ ROOF.



OH
REALLY?

CARE TO
SHARE,
"BOSS"?



OH
BOY...



CAN I TAKE
YOUR ORDER,
MISS?

ONE SMALL
HOT CHAI
PLEASE.

COMIN'
RIGHT UP!

WELL,
YOU KNOW
THAT THE
ARTIST I
WAS TALKING
ABOUT THE
OTHER DAY?

YEAH, WHAT
ABOUT HIM?



WELL,
YOU'RE STANDING
RIGHT IN FRONT
OF HIM!

NO WAY!

THAT'S
RIGHT!

ALL
THROUGH
COLLEGE,
AMEYA WOULD
PAINT UP
A STORM.

AND SINCE
HE WASN'T
REALLY
KNOWN BACK
THEN...

AND DIDN'T
HAVE THE
SPACE TO
STORE THEM
ALL...

...HE GAVE
QUITE A
FEW TO THE
CAFÉ!

NO WAY!

YOU'RE THE
AMEYA?!

YOU'VE
HEARD
OF ME?

HOW COULD I
NOT HAVE? YOU
WERE THE MOST
TALKED-ABOUT
ARTIST ON THE
EAST COAST THREE
YEARS AGO!

WHOA!

MISS...WATCH
OUT FOR
THAT WET
SPOT! IT'S...

COME ON
CALL!

WE NEED
TO GET
HOME!

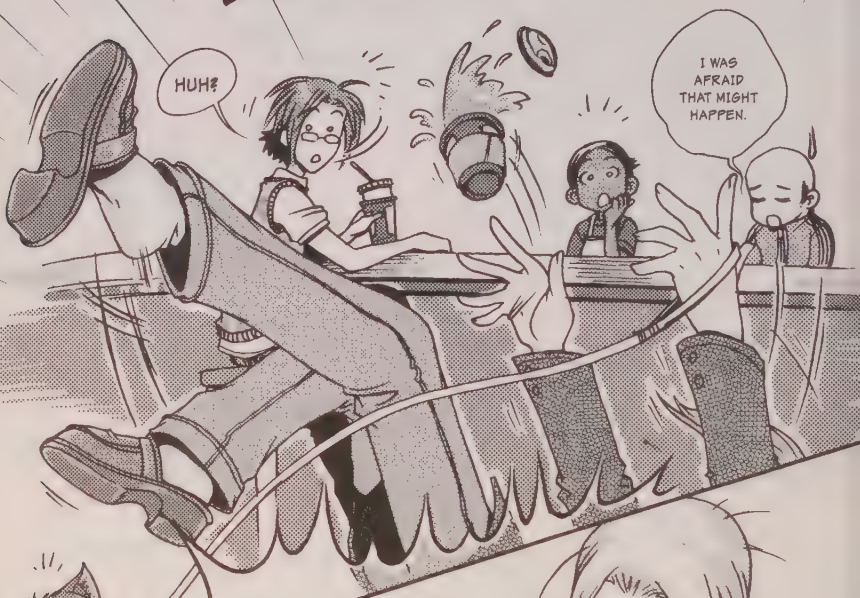
BUT THEN YOU
DISAPPEARED.

WHAT
HAPPENED?

WELL, IT'S
A LONG
STORY...

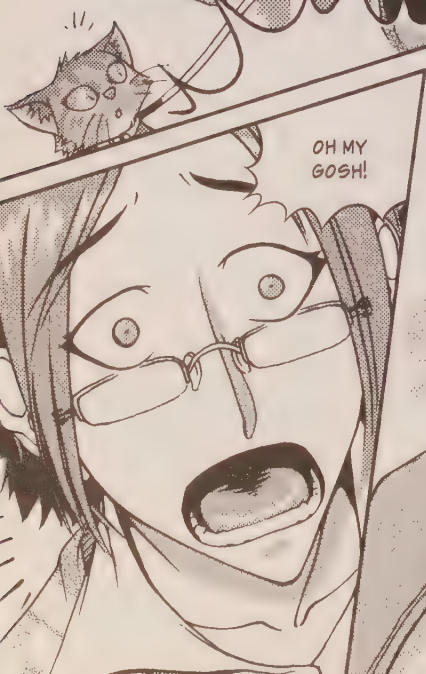


EEK!



HUH?

I WAS AFRAID THAT MIGHT HAPPEN.



OH MY GOSH!



OW
OW
OW
OW!

mew?





ARE YOU
GOING TO
BE OKAY?

MY BUM WILL
BE A LITTLE
SORE, BUT...

mew!

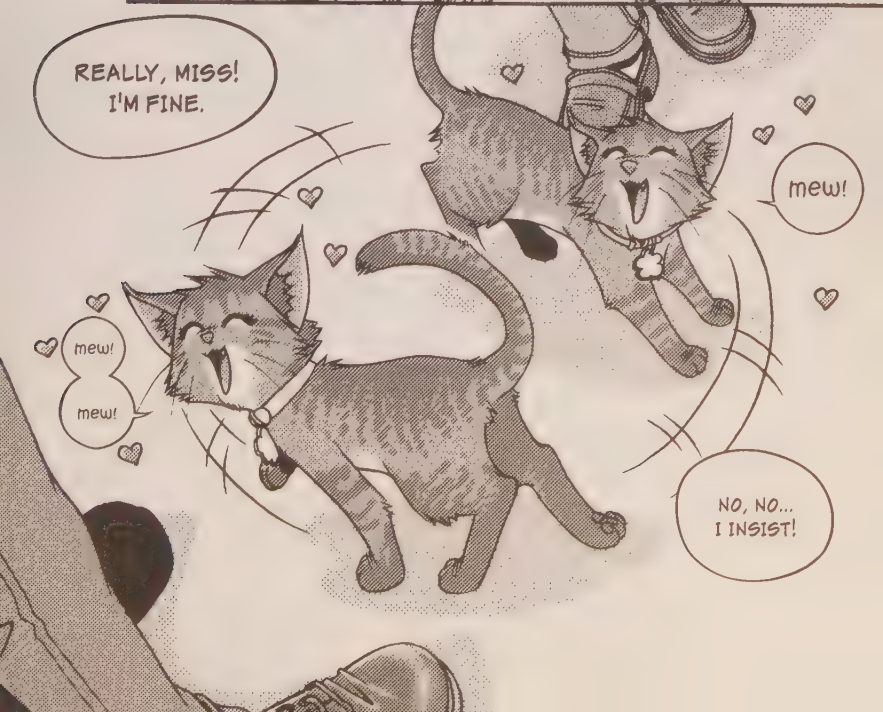
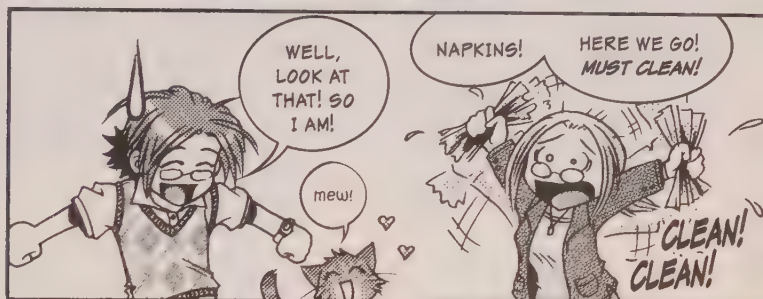
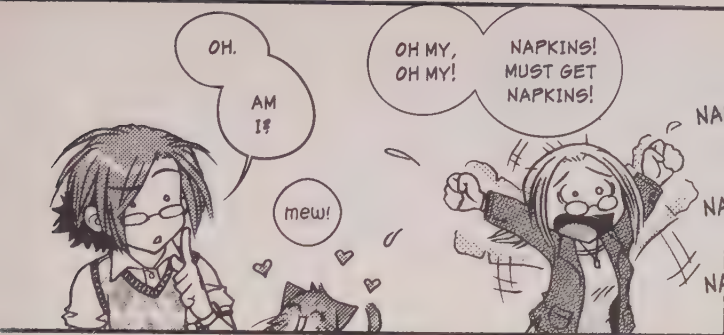


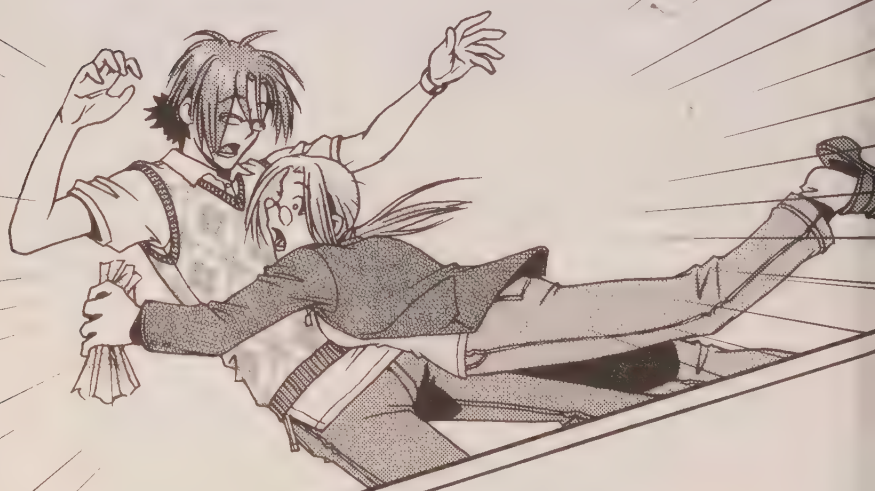
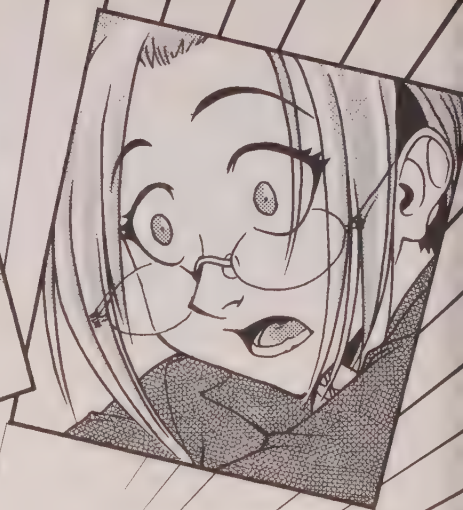
OH,
GOSH!



YOU
ENDED UP
WEARING
MY CHAI!

mew!







I'M SO
SORRY!
I DID IT
AGAIN!

I'M SUCH
A KLUTZ!

EVERYWHERE
I GO, I ALWAYS
CAUSE TROUBLE.



NO, NO!
DON'T
WORRY!

I CAN
RELATE...
I'M A BIT
OF A KLUTZ
MYSELF.



OH!



mew!



REALLY?

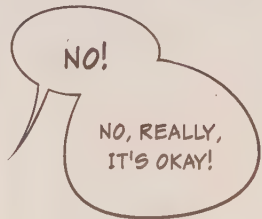
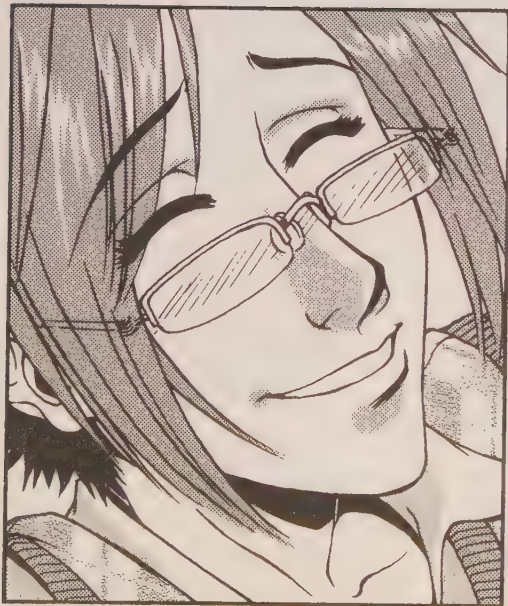
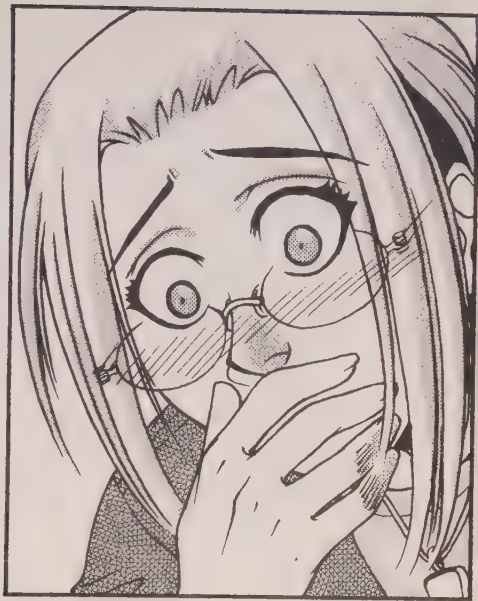
UH-
HUH.

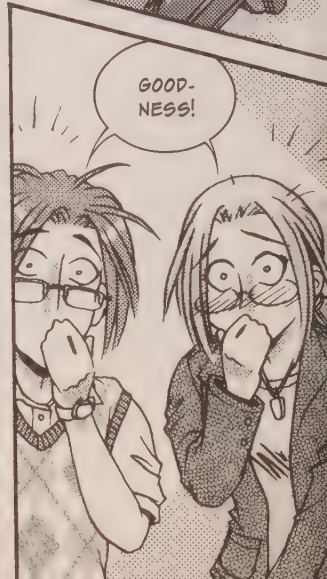
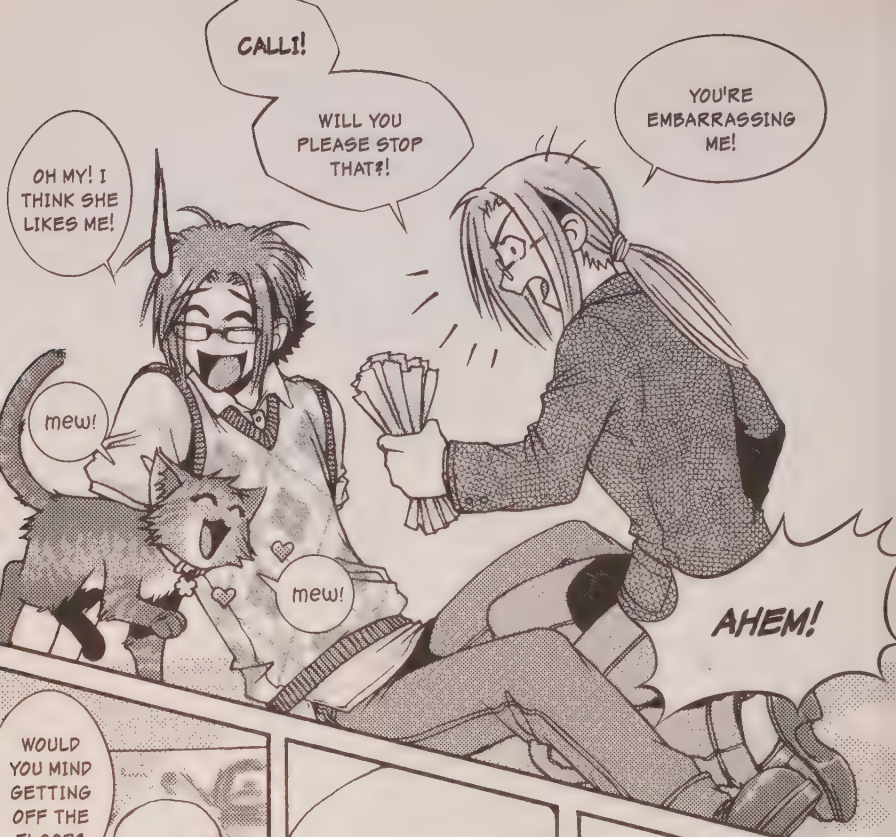
mew!

CHAPTER 3









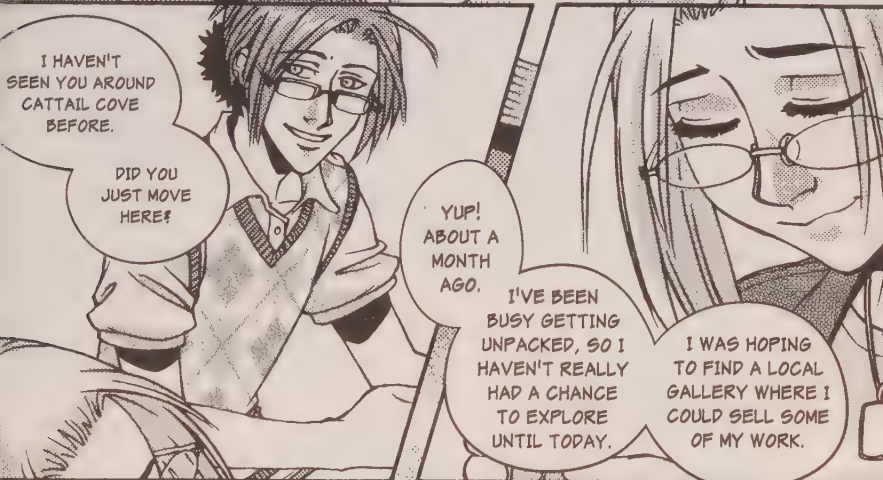


HERE
YOU GO!

A FRESH
HOT CHAI!

mew!

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!



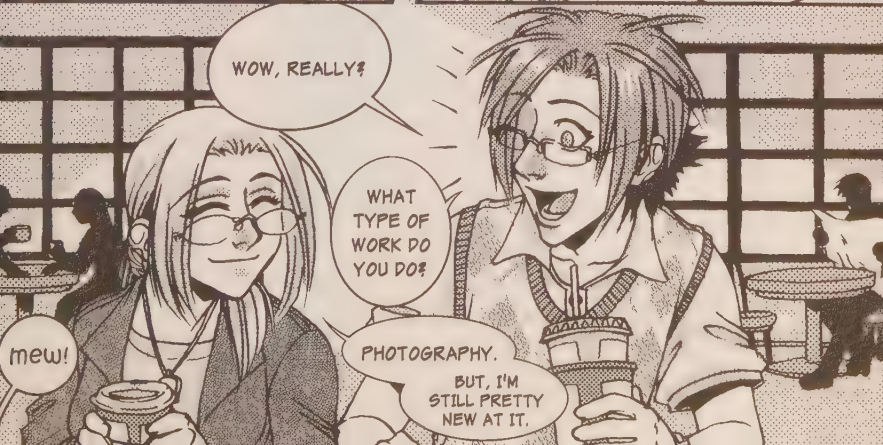
I HAVEN'T
SEEN YOU AROUND
CATTAIL COVE
BEFORE.

DID YOU
JUST MOVE
HERE?

YUP!
ABOUT A
MONTH
AGO.

I'VE BEEN
BUSY GETTING
UNPACKED, SO I
HAVEN'T REALLY
HAD A CHANCE
TO EXPLORE
UNTIL TODAY.

I WAS HOPING
TO FIND A LOCAL
GALLERY WHERE I
COULD SELL SOME
OF MY WORK.



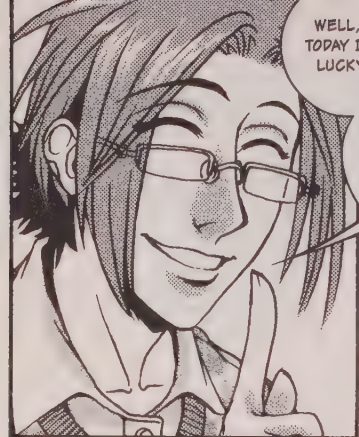
WOW, REALLY?

WHAT
TYPE OF
WORK DO
YOU DO?

PHOTOGRAPHY.

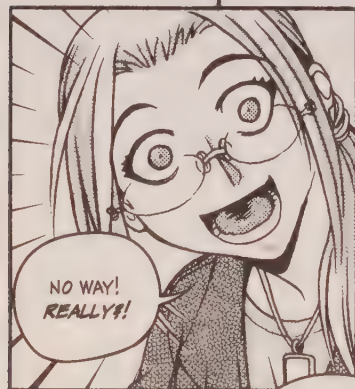
BUT, I'M
STILL PRETTY
NEW AT IT.

mew!

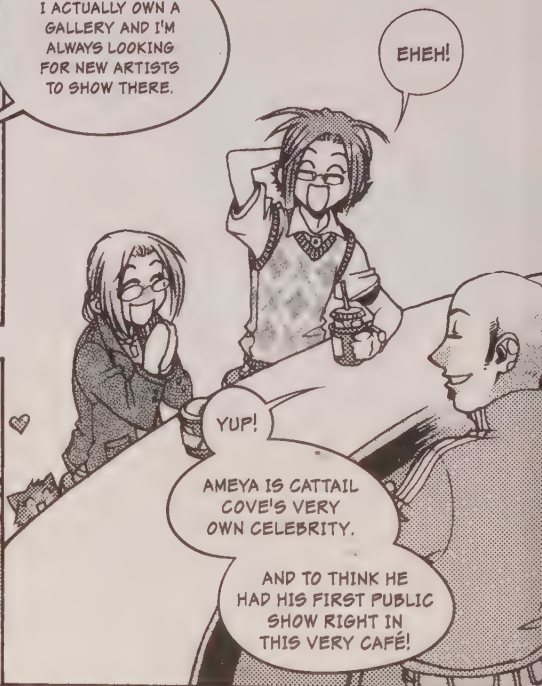


WELL, THEN
TODAY IS YOUR
LUCKY DAY!

I ACTUALLY OWN A
GALLERY AND I'M
ALWAYS LOOKING
FOR NEW ARTISTS
TO SHOW THERE.



NO WAY!
REALLY?!

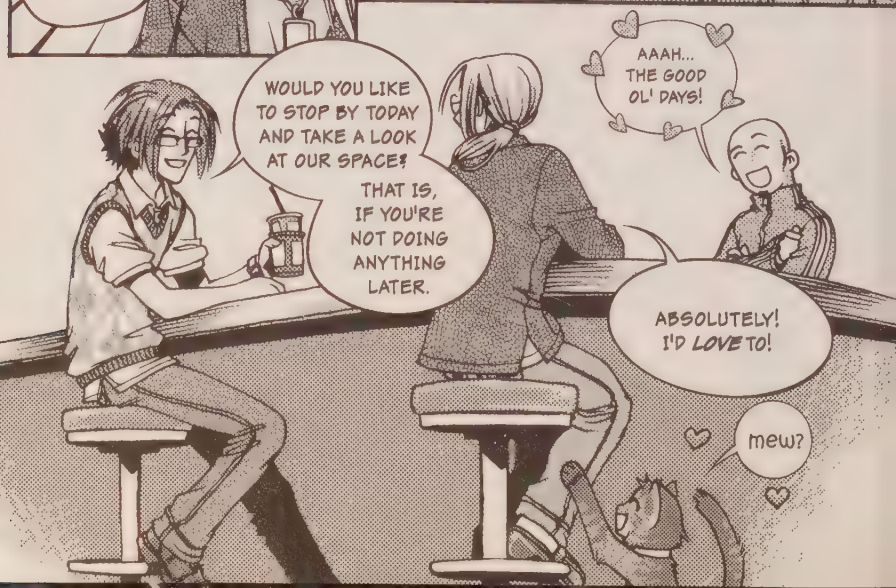


EHEH!

YUP!

AMEYA IS CATTAIL
COVE'S VERY
OWN CELEBRITY.

AND TO THINK HE
HAD HIS FIRST PUBLIC
SHOW RIGHT IN
THIS VERY CAFÉ!



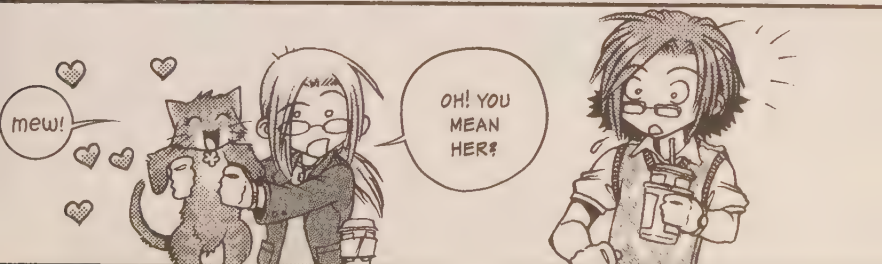
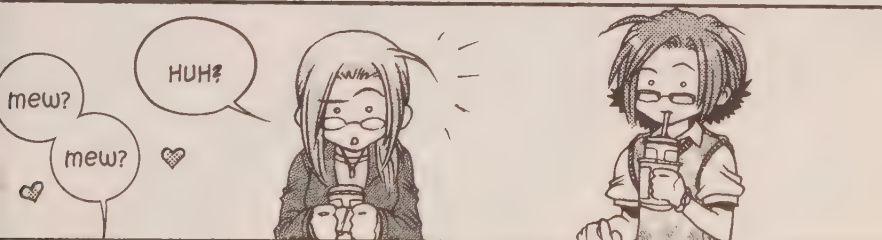
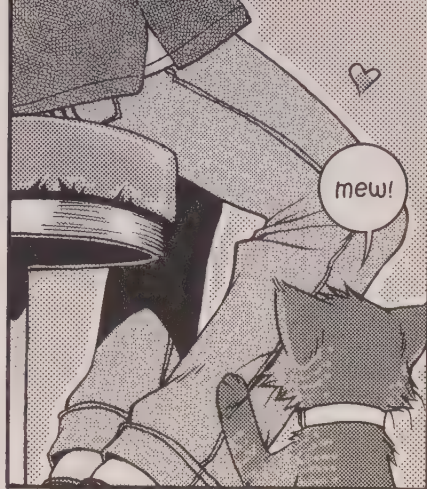
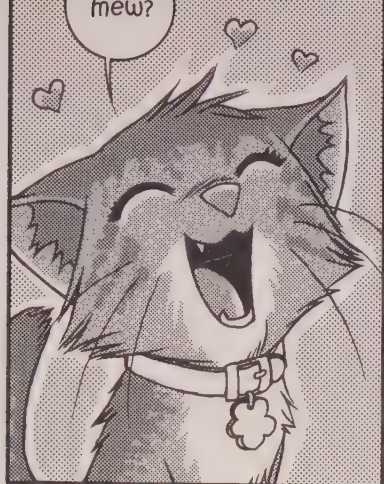
WOULD YOU LIKE
TO STOP BY TODAY
AND TAKE A LOOK
AT OUR SPACE?

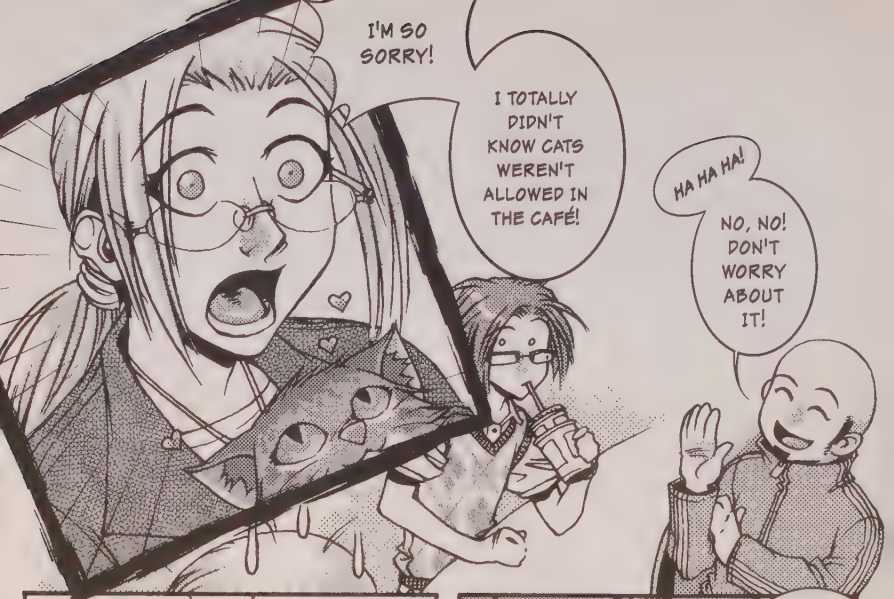
THAT IS,
IF YOU'RE
NOT DOING
ANYTHING
LATER.

AAAH...
THE GOOD
OL' DAYS!

ABSOLUTELY!
I'D LOVE TO!

mew?



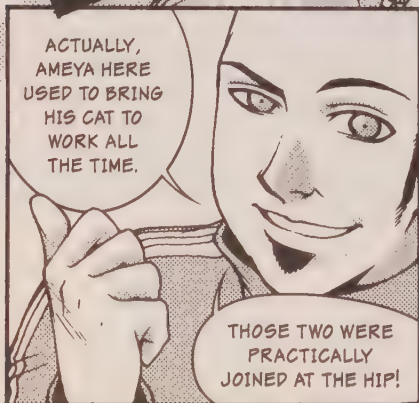


I'M SO
SORRY!

I TOTALLY
DIDN'T
KNOW CATS
WEREN'T
ALLOWED IN
THE CAFÉ!

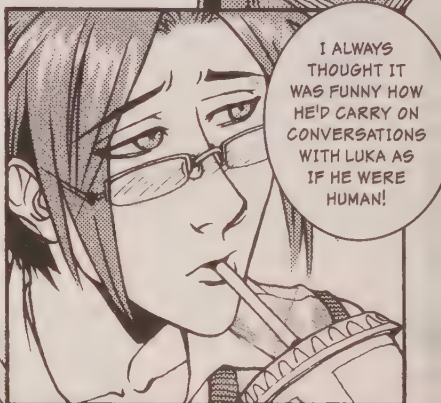
HA HA HA!

NO, NO!
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT!

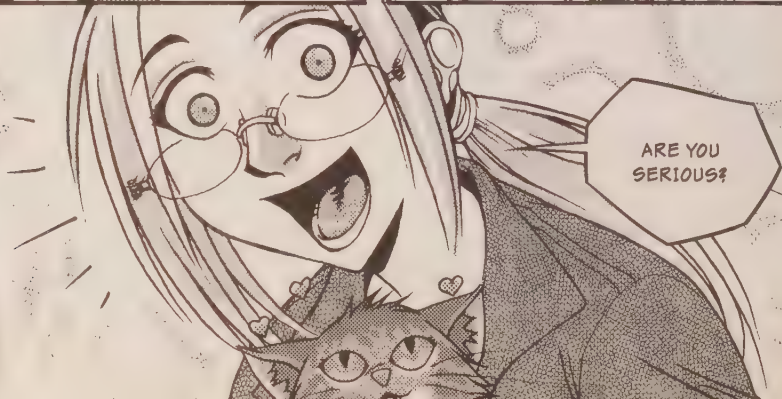


ACTUALLY,
AMEYA HERE
USED TO BRING
HIS CAT TO
WORK ALL
THE TIME.

THOSE TWO WERE
PRACTICALLY
JOINED AT THE HIP!



I ALWAYS
THOUGHT IT
WAS FUNNY HOW
HE'D CARRY ON
CONVERSATIONS
WITH LUKE AS
IF HE WERE
HUMAN!



ARE YOU
SERIOUS?



WELL...UM...

YEAH...

IT IS...EHEH...



THIS
IS SO
COOL!

I ALWAYS
THOUGHT
I WAS THE
ONLY ONE!

ME,
TOO!



I'M LUCI,
BY THE WAY.

PLEASD TO
MEET YOU!

AND I THINK
YOU'VE ALREADY
FIGURED OUT
THAT MY NAME'S
AMEYA.

HI
CALLI!

mew!

AND THAT
WOULD BE
CALLI!

mew!

SO, WHAT
DO YOU SAY TO
STOPPING BY
THE STUDIO AND
TAKING A LOOK
AROUND?

BACK ON
THE FLOOR
WITH YOU...

mew!

SURE!

I DIDN'T
HAVE
ANYTHING
ELSE GOING
ON TODAY...

THIS'LL
GIVE ME
SOMETHING
EXCITING
TO DO!

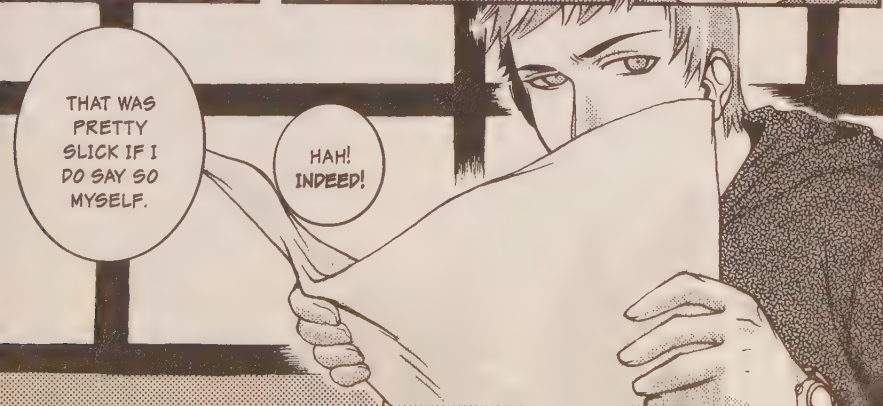
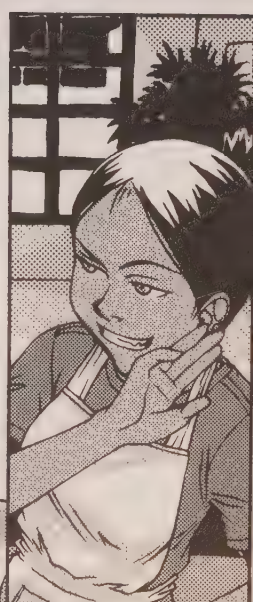
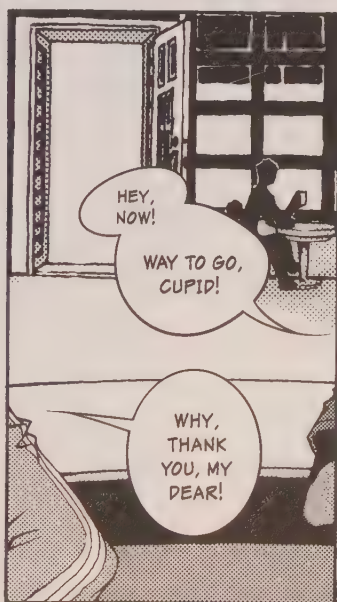
THEN
SHALL
WE?

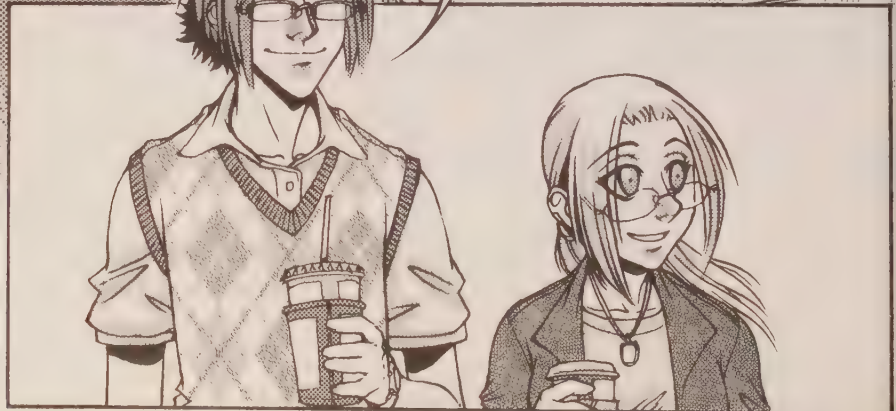
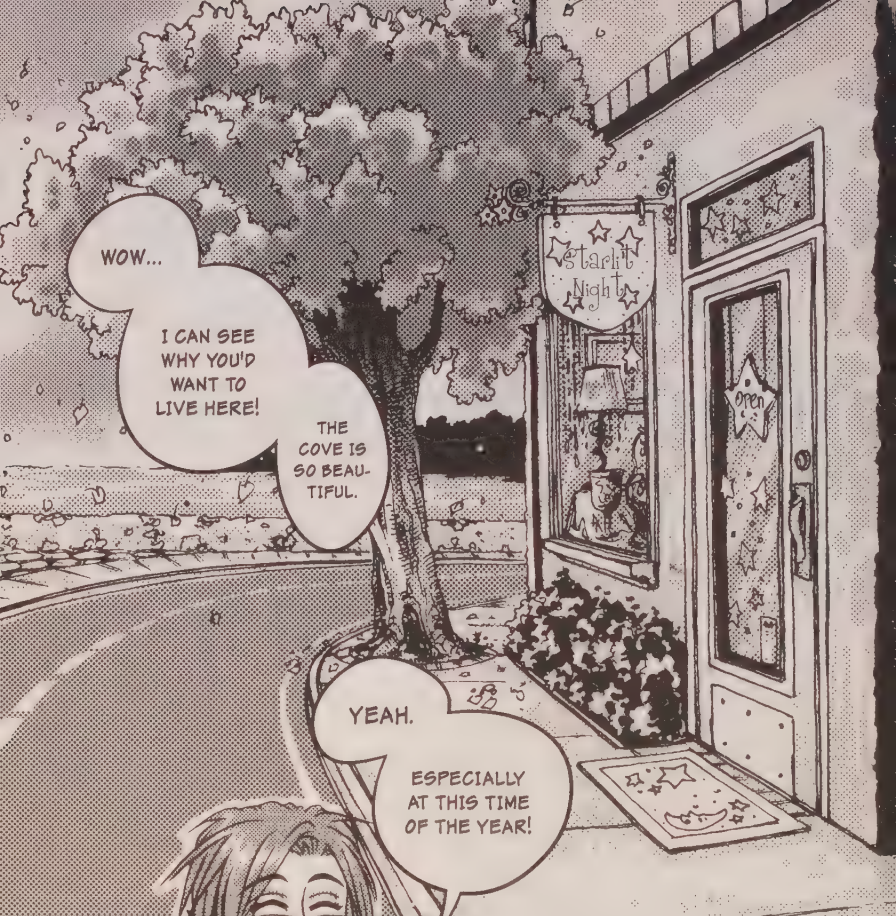
OKIE
DOKIE! BYE,
GUYS!

NICE
MEETING
YOU!

I'LL CATCH
YOU LATER,
TIM!

SEE YA,
EMILY!



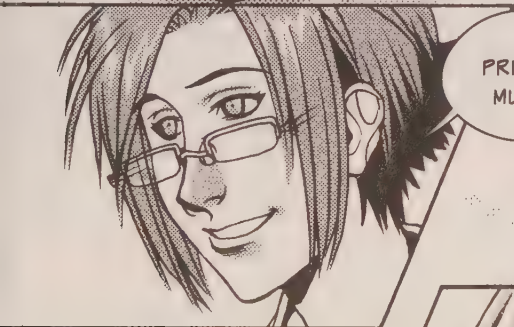




MUM AND DAD
USED TO BRING
ME DOWN TO THE
WATERFRONT PARK
FOR PICNICS WHEN
I WAS YOUNG.

SO YOU
GREW UP
HERE,
TOO?

mew!



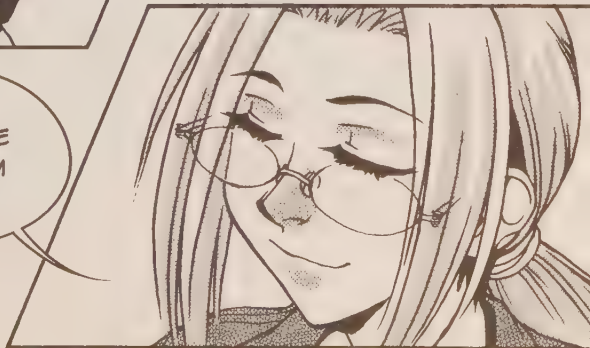
PRETTY
MUCH!

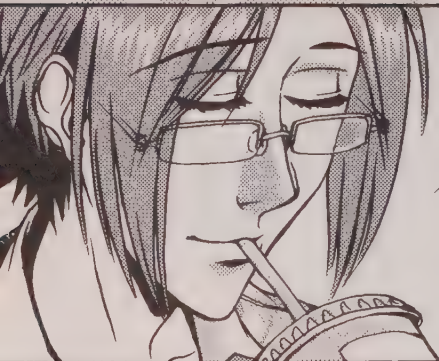
MY PARENTS
LIVE A COUPLE
OF MILES
INLAND.

SO I PRETTY
MUCH STAYED
CLOSE TO
HOME.



MUST BE NICE
HAVING THEM
AROUND.

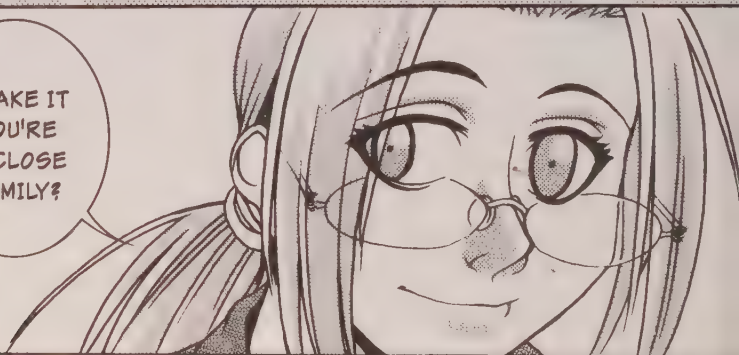




YEAH,
IT IS.

IT MAKES LIFE
A LITTLE MORE
SANE THAT WAY,
I GUESS.

I TAKE IT
YOU'RE
A CLOSE
FAMILY?



YEAH, I
LIKE TO
THINK
WE ARE.

I MEAN...

THEY'VE
ALWAYS BEEN
THERE FOR
ME.





EVEN WITH
YOUR ART?

ESPECIALLY
WITH MY ART!

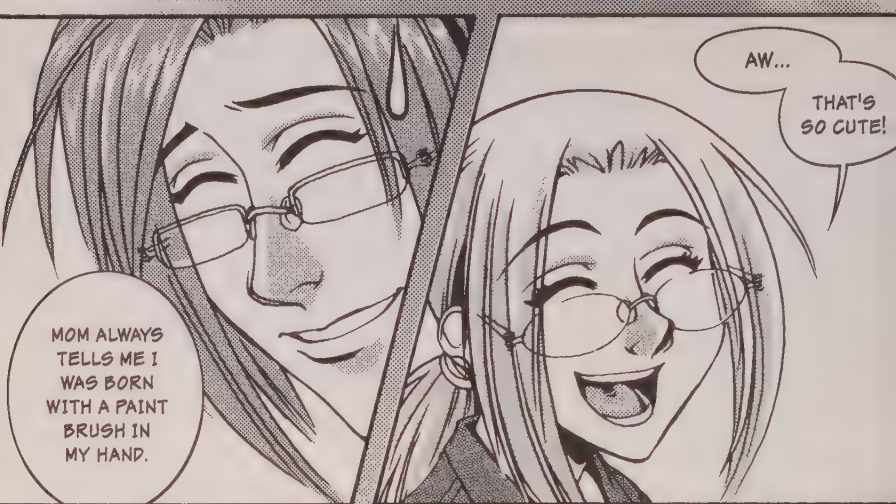
NOW
THAT I THINK
ABOUT IT...

THERE
HASN'T BEEN A
TIME THAT THEY
DIDN'T SUPPORT
MY ART.

REALLY?

HMMM...
WONDER
WHY...

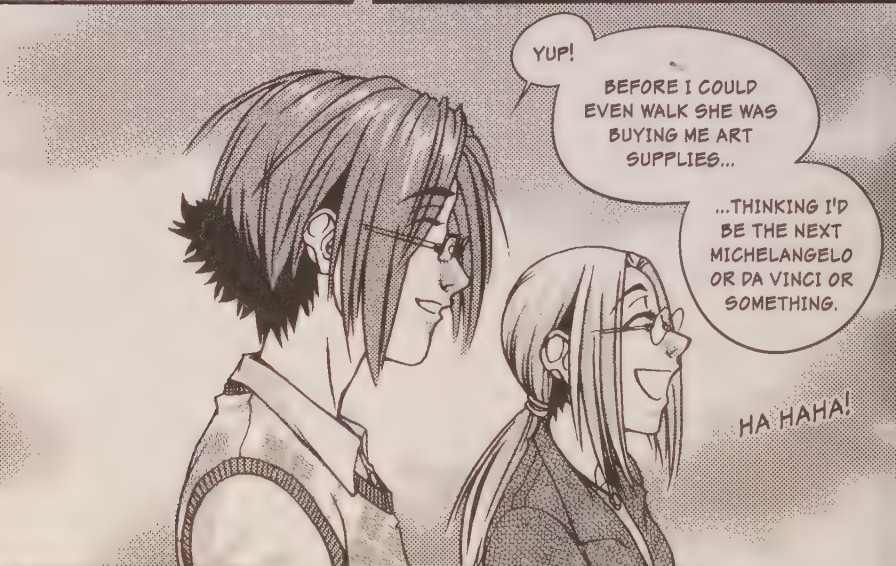
BROTHERS
ANTIQUE



MOM ALWAYS
TELLS ME I
WAS BORN
WITH A PAINT
BRUSH IN
MY HAND.

AW...

THAT'S
SO CUTE!

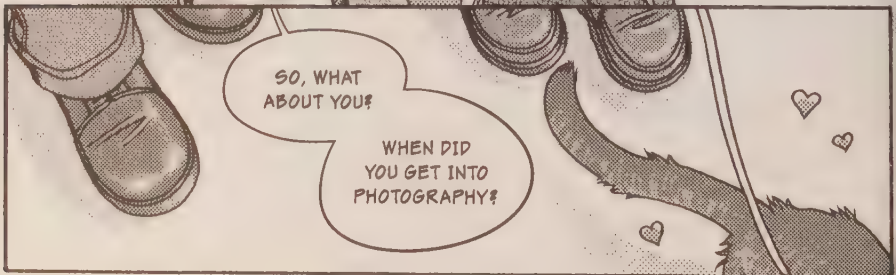


YUP!

BEFORE I COULD
EVEN WALK SHE WAS
BUYING ME ART
SUPPLIES...

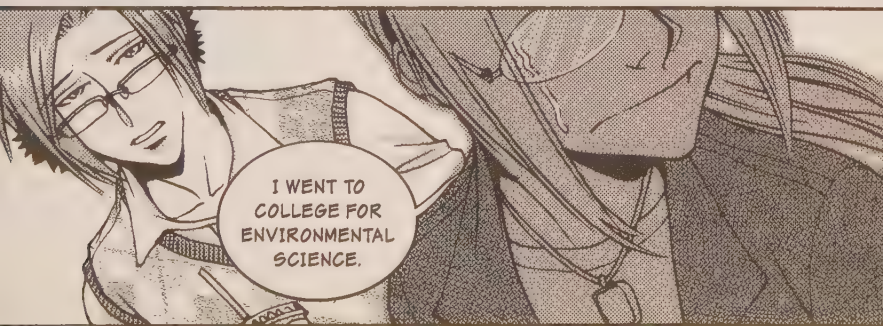
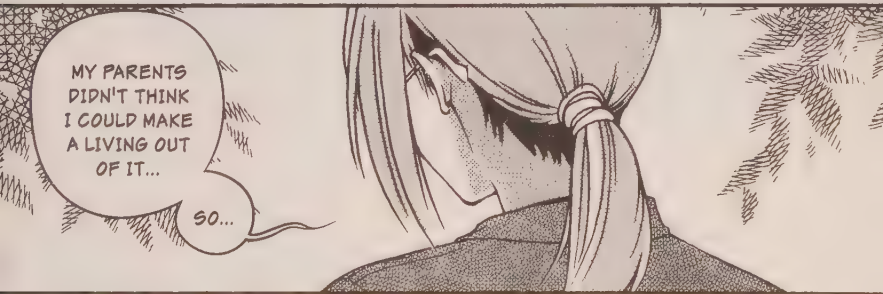
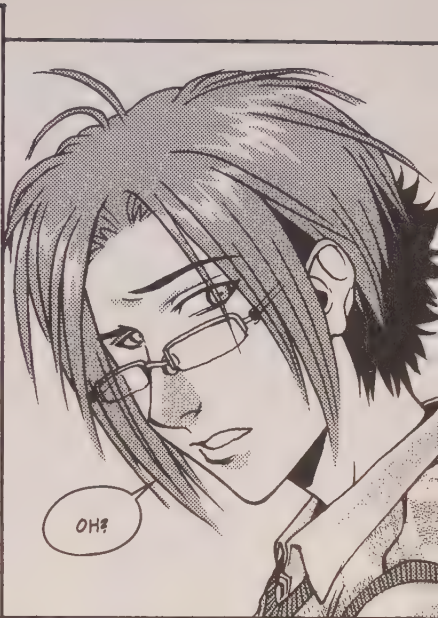
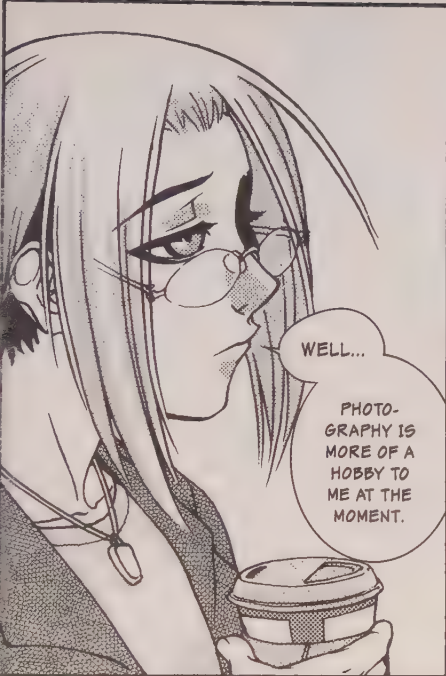
...THINKING I'D
BE THE NEXT
MICHELANGELO
OR DA VINCI OR
SOMETHING.

HA HAHA!



SO, WHAT
ABOUT YOU?

WHEN DID
YOU GET INTO
PHOTOGRAPHY?

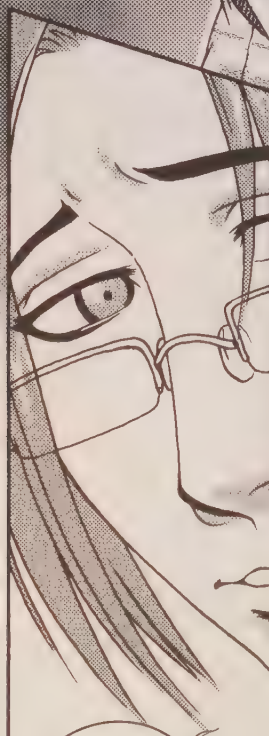


LUCI?

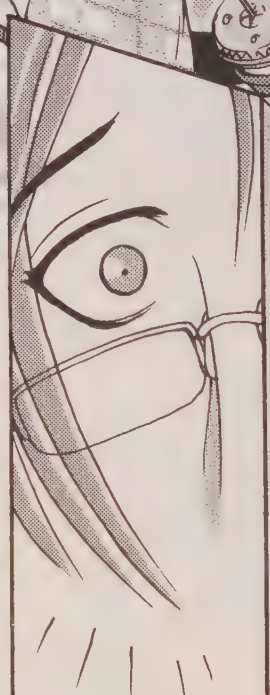
ARE YOU
OKAY?

I'M
FINE.

SOMETHING
JUST FLEW
INTO MY
EYE IS ALL.



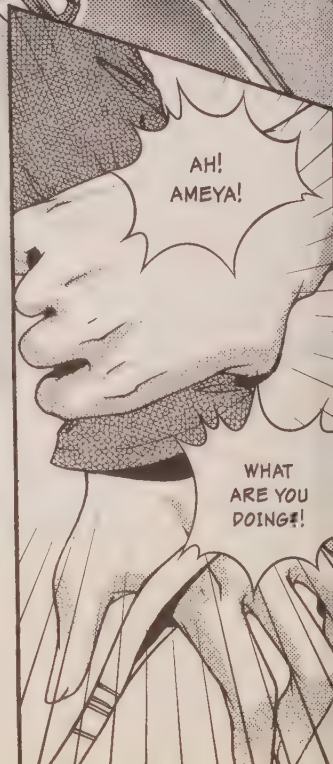
ARE YOU
SURE?



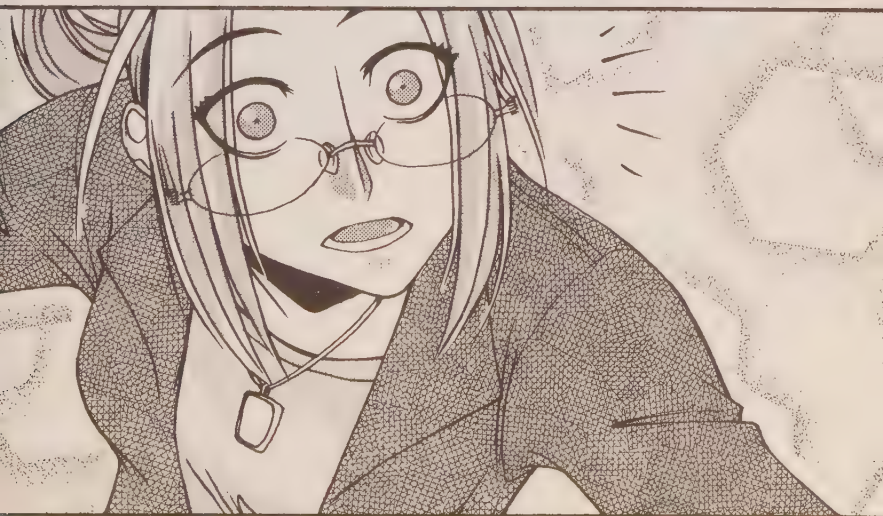
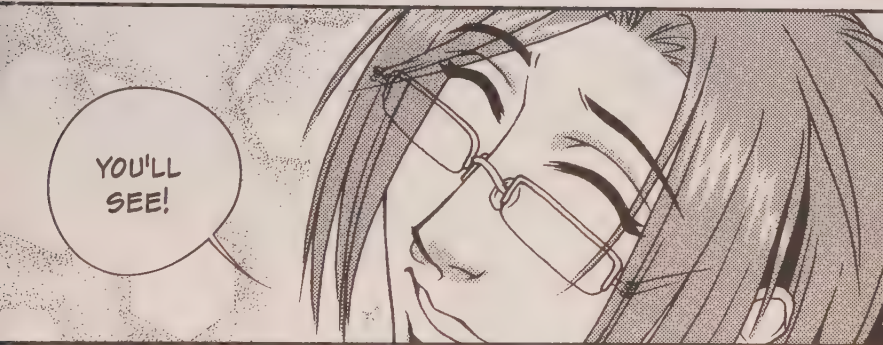
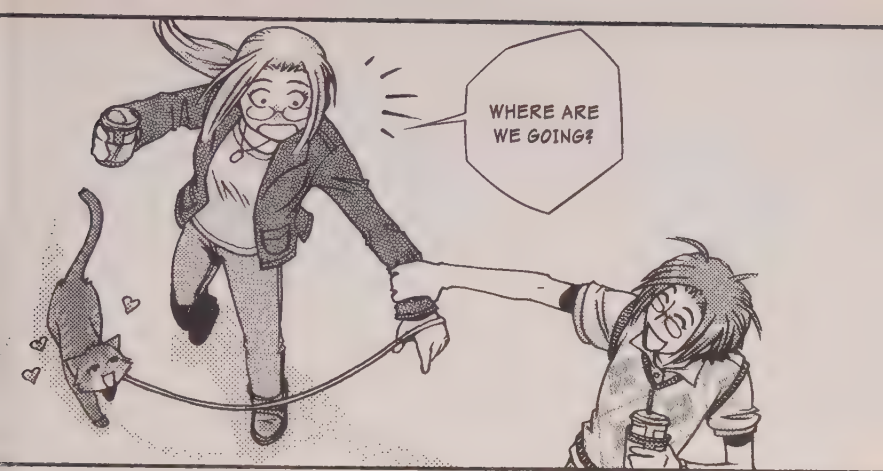
YEAH...I'M
SURE...

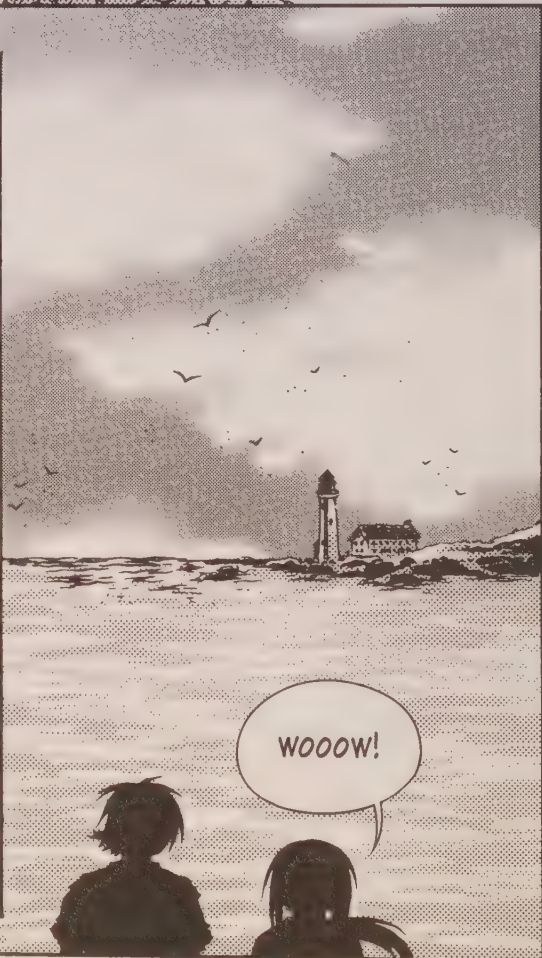
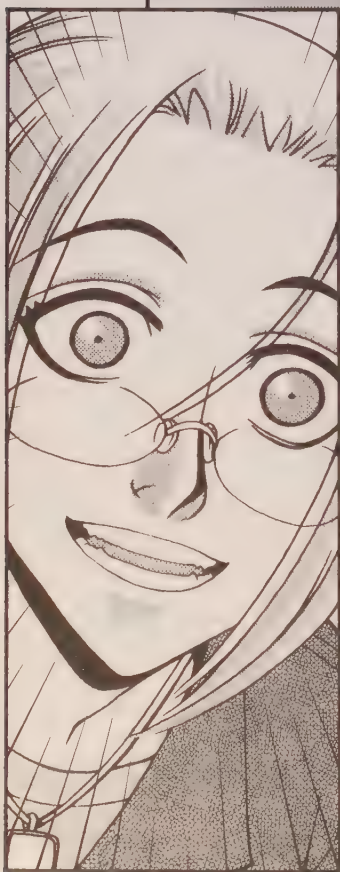
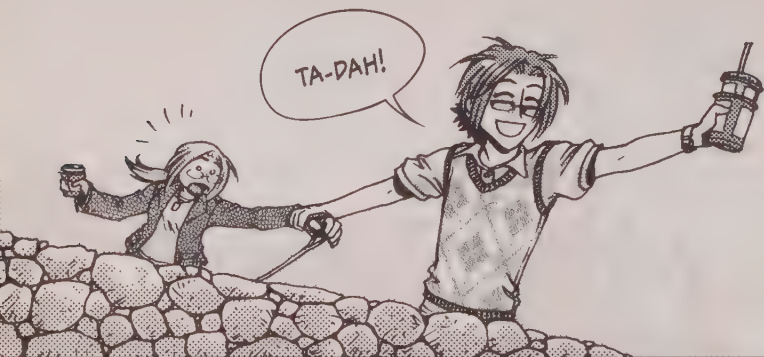


AH!
AMEYA!



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!





IT'S SO
AMAZING!

YEAH...

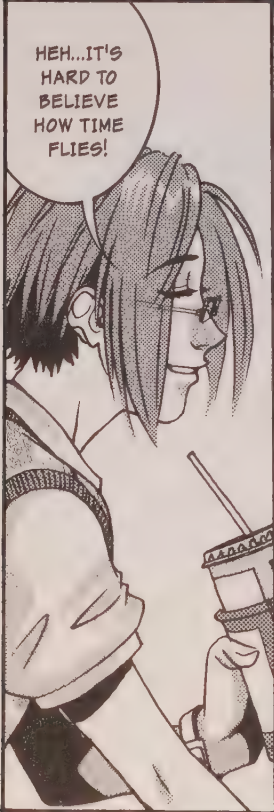
ON COOL
SUMMER
NIGHTS, MS.
CHACHA AND I
SIT OUT ON THE
FRONT STEPS OF THE STUDIO
AND WATCH
THE STARS.

MS. CHACHA?

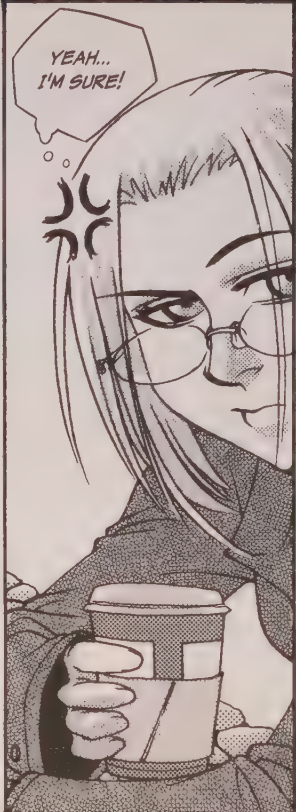
mew?

OH!
SORRY!

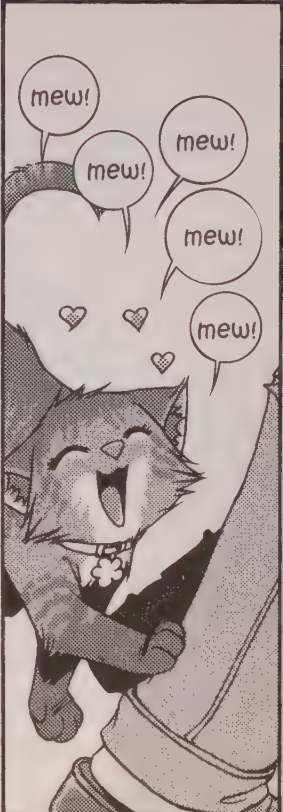
SHE'S MY
AGENT. WE'VE
WORKED
TOGETHER SINCE
MY DEBUT A FEW
YEARS AGO.



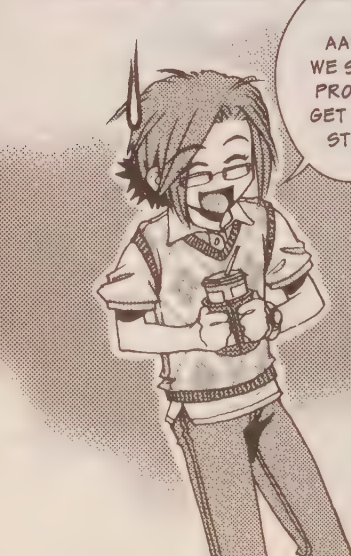
HEH...IT'S
HARD TO
BELIEVE
HOW TIME
FLIES!



YEAH...
I'M SURE!

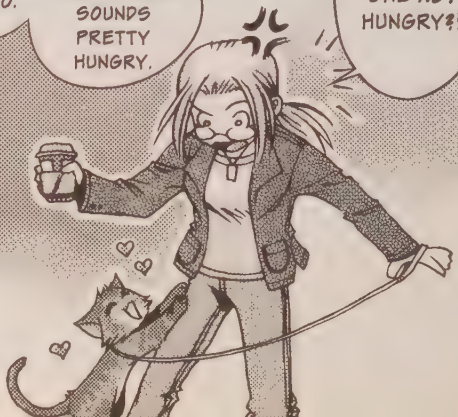


mew!
mew!
mew!
mew!

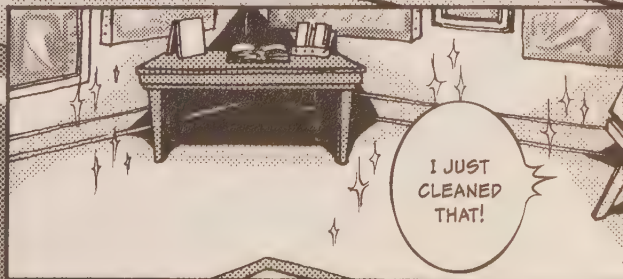
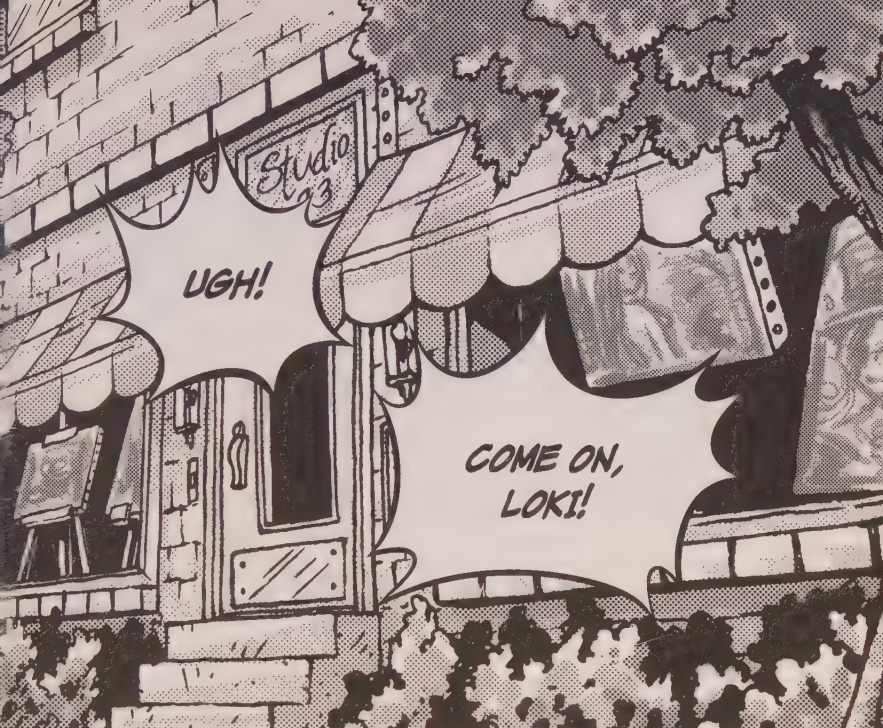


AAHHH...
WE SHOULD
PROBABLY
GET TO THE
STUDIO.

YOUR
FRIEND THERE
SOUNDS
PRETTY
HUNGRY.



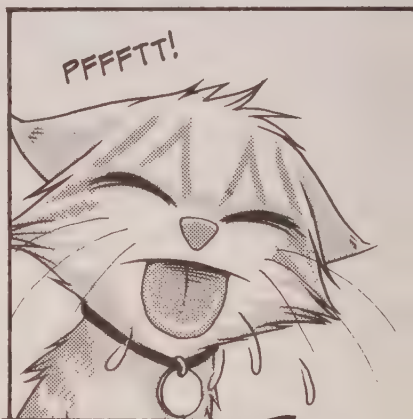
WHEN IS
SHE NOT
HUNGRY?!



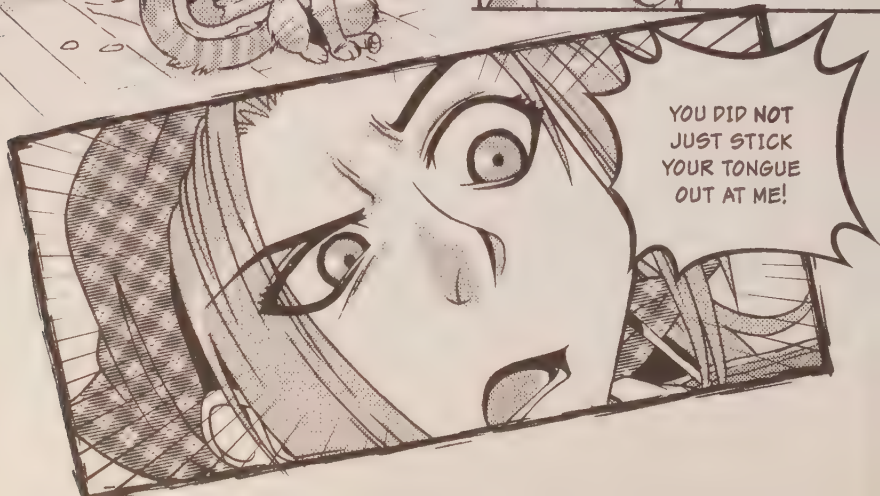


MOVE YOUR
FURRY BUM,
FUZZBALL!

I WANT THIS
PLACE SPOTLESS
BEFORE AMEYA
GETS BACK, OR
IT WILL NEVER
GET DONE.



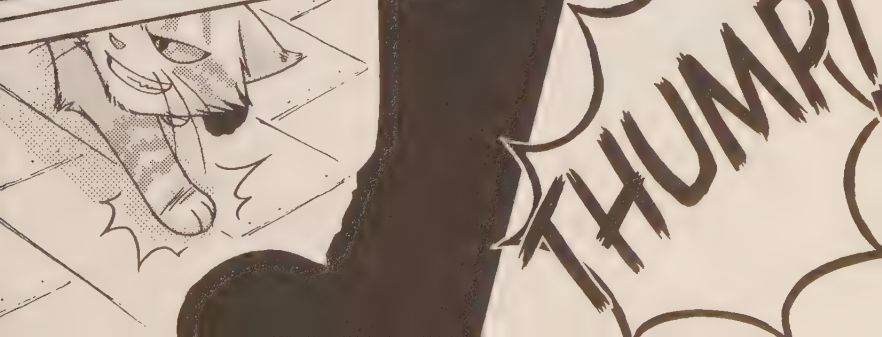
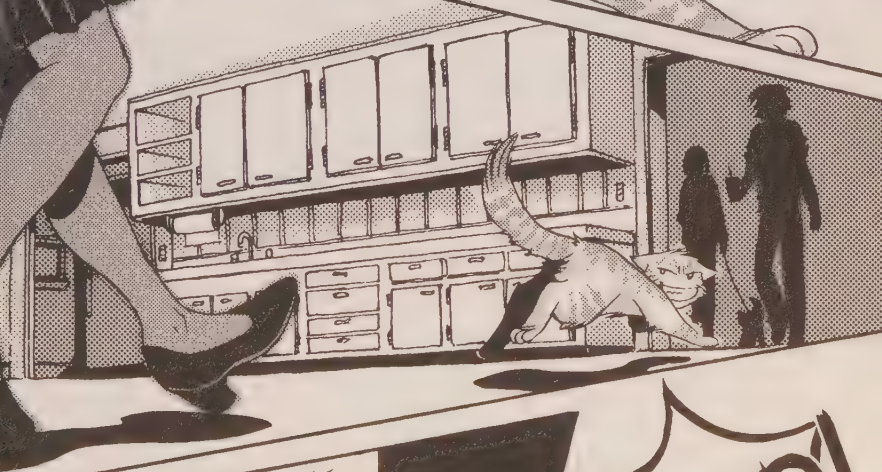
PFFFTT!



YOU DID NOT
JUST STICK
YOUR TONGUE
OUT AT ME!



COME BACK
HERE, YOU!





WHOA,
THERE!



LOKI,
ARE YOU
OKAY?


Blink
Blink



YEAH...
IF YOU
CALL THIS
"OKAY"!

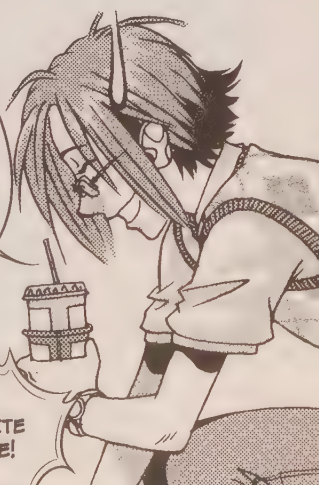


NEED
ANY HELP
GETTING
UP?



I'M PERFECTLY
CAPABLE,
THANK YOU
VERY MUCH!

AAAWWW...



ARE
YOU STILL
MAD THAT MS.
CHACHA MADE
YOU CLEAN,
TOO?



BITE
ME!



WELL
WELL...

...LOOK WHAT
THE CAT
DRAGGED IN!

UM...

HI, MS. CHACHA!

WHERE
HAVE YOU
BEEN?!

I SPENT ALL
AFTERNOON
CLEANING *YOUR*
STUDIO AND
ENTERTAINING
YOUR CAT!

YEAH...

BUT YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO KICKED
ME OUT...

...
REMEM-
BER?

AMEYA? IS
EVERYTHING
ALL RIGHT
IN HERE?

OH...

MY...

GOD!

IF THIS IS A
BAD TIME FOR
YOU TO SHOW
ME AROUND...

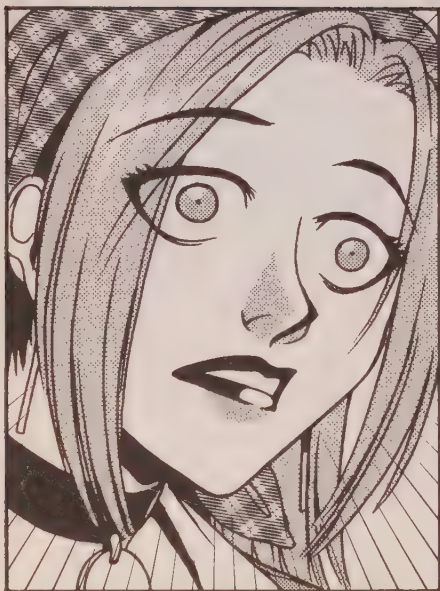
I CAN
COME
BACK...

UH...
NO,
NO!

EVERY-
THING IS
FINE!

mew!

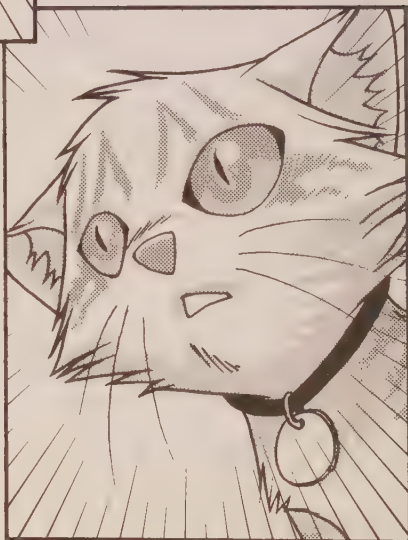




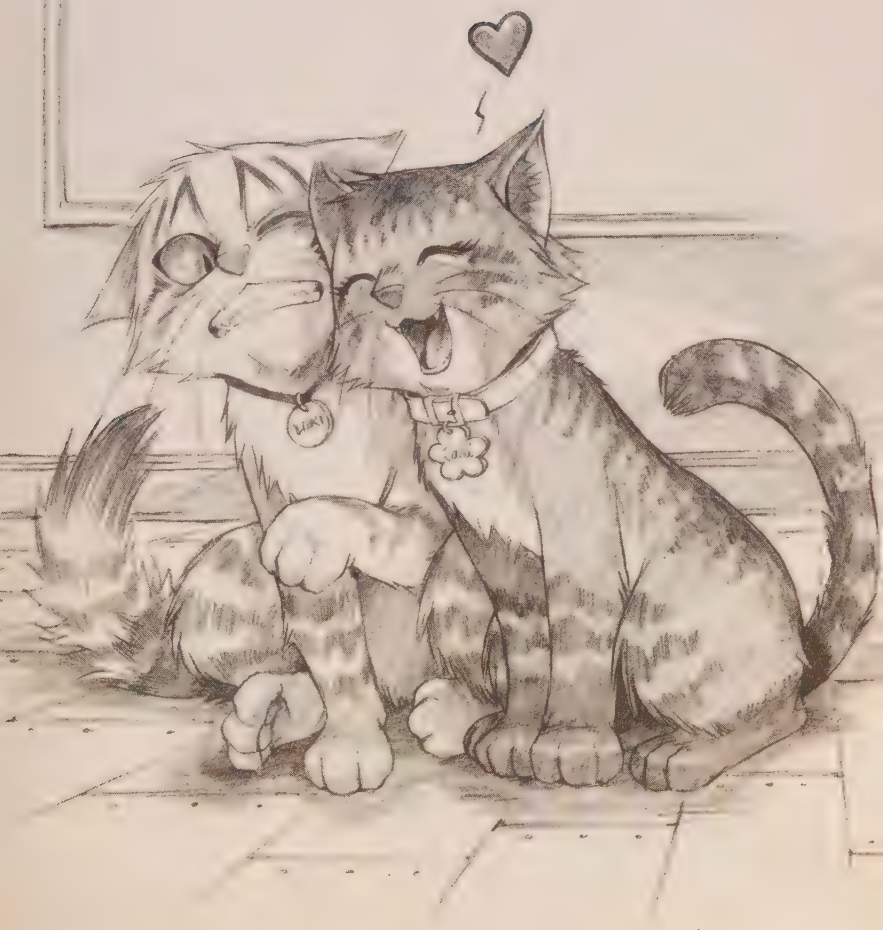
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.

EVERYTHING IS JUST...

...FINE.



CHAPTER 4







AMEYA?

IS EVERYTHING
ALL RIGHT?

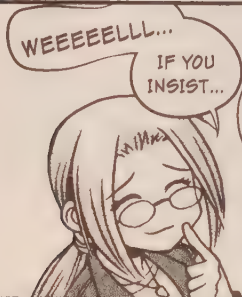
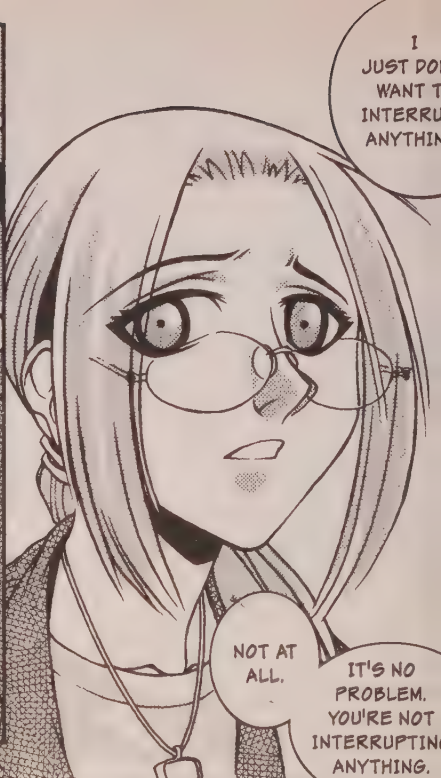
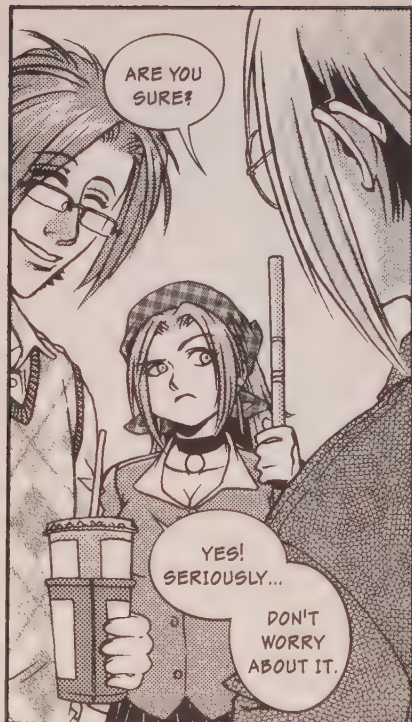
MAYBE WE
SHOULD DO THIS
ANOTHER TIME.

NO!
NO!

IT'S
OKAY.

EVERYTHING IS
GOING TO BE...

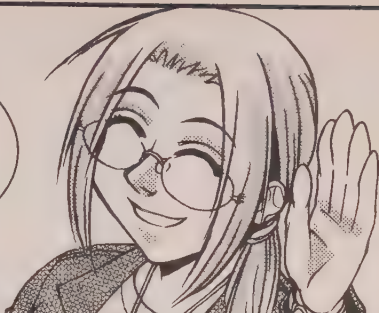
...JUST
FINE.



THIS
IS
LUCI.

LUCI, THIS IS
MS. CHACHA.

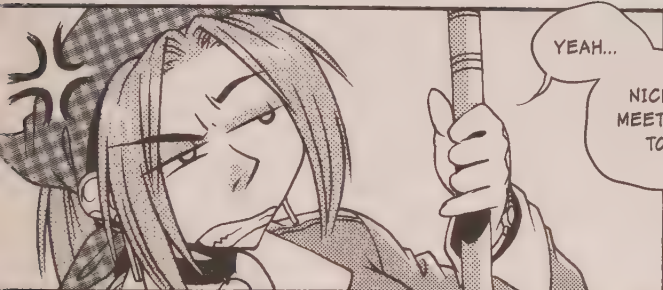
HI, THERE!
NICE TO MEET
YOU, MA'AM.



YEAH...

NICE TO
MEET YOU,
TOO.

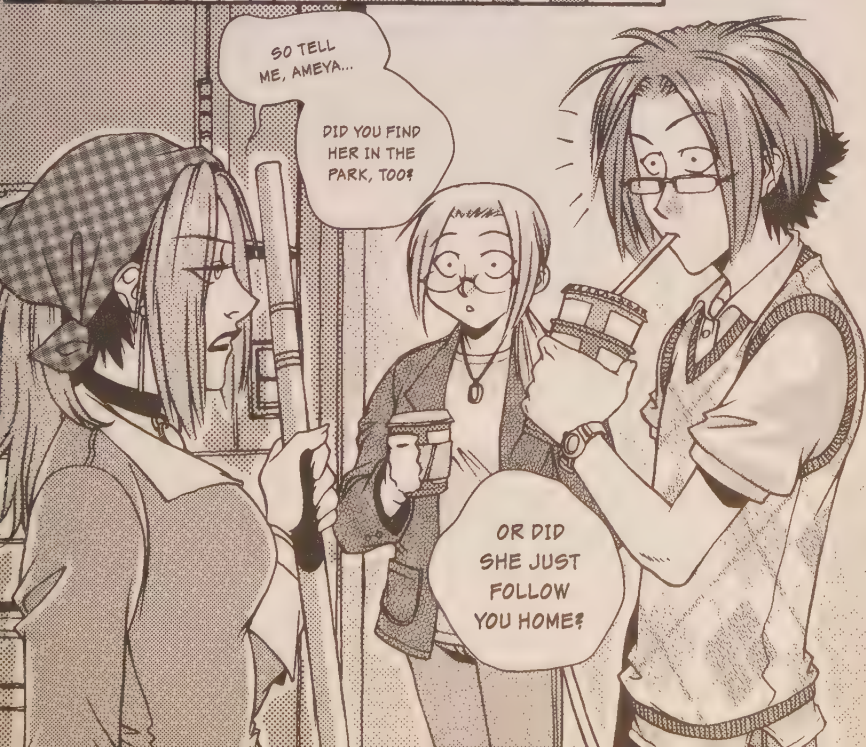
"MA'AM?!"
WHO IS SHE
CALLING
"MA'AM?!"



SO TELL
ME, AMEYA...

DID YOU FIND
HER IN THE
PARK, TOO?

OR DID
SHE JUST
FOLLOW
YOU HOME?



OH...
AH...
NO.

WE MET AT THE
CAFE...WELL...
MORE LIKE
WE BUMPED
INTO EACH
OTHER, BUT...

ANYWAY...

SHE'S A
PHOTOGRAPHER
AND JUST MOVED
TO THE COVE, SO
SHE'S LOOKING
FOR A PLACE TO
SHOW HER WORK.

SINCE I HAVE THE
ROOM, I OFFERED
HER SOME SPACE
IN THE GALLERY.
SO, I BROUGHT
HER BACK HERE TO
TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

YEAH,
I'M
SURE.

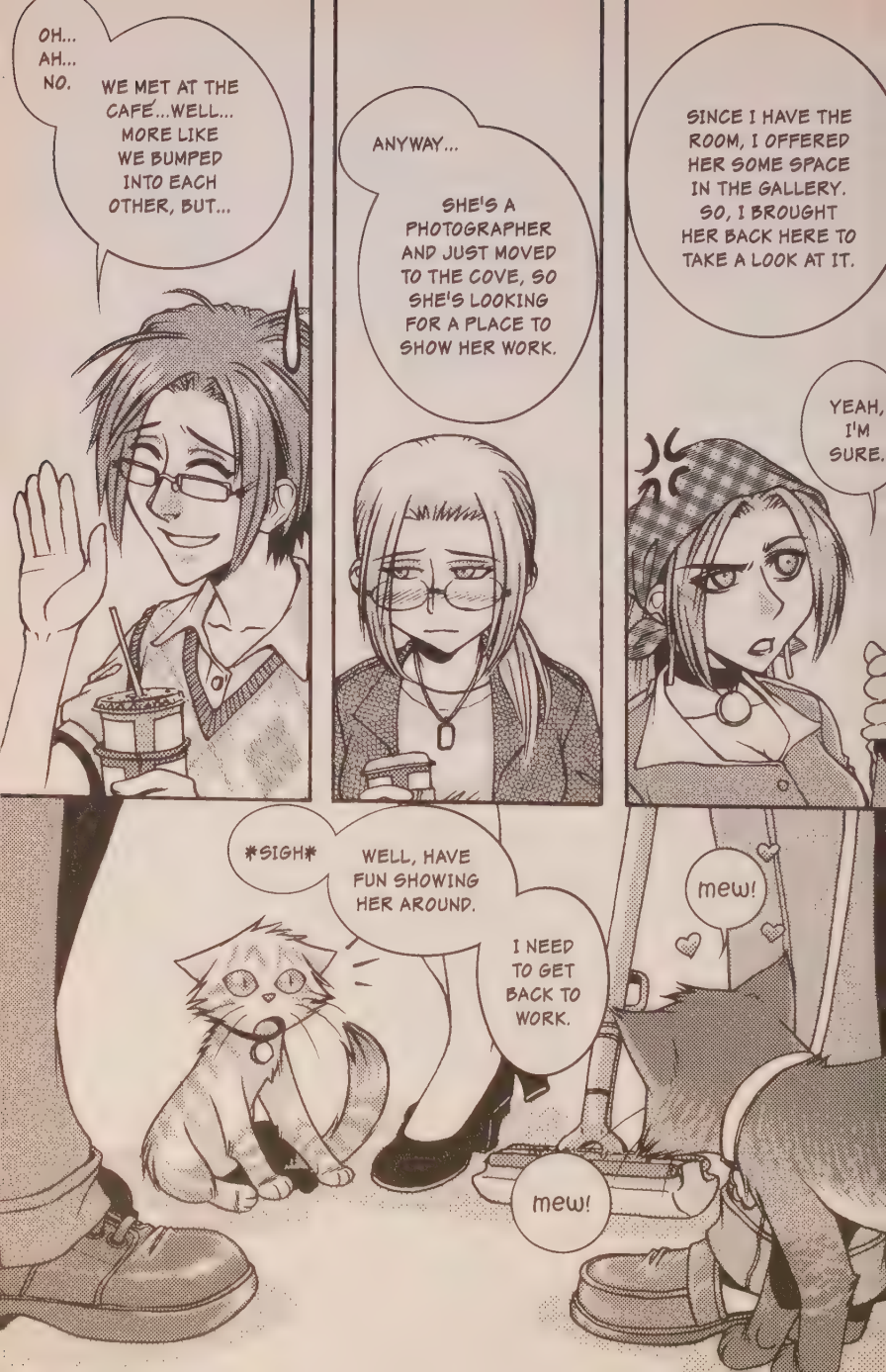
SIGH

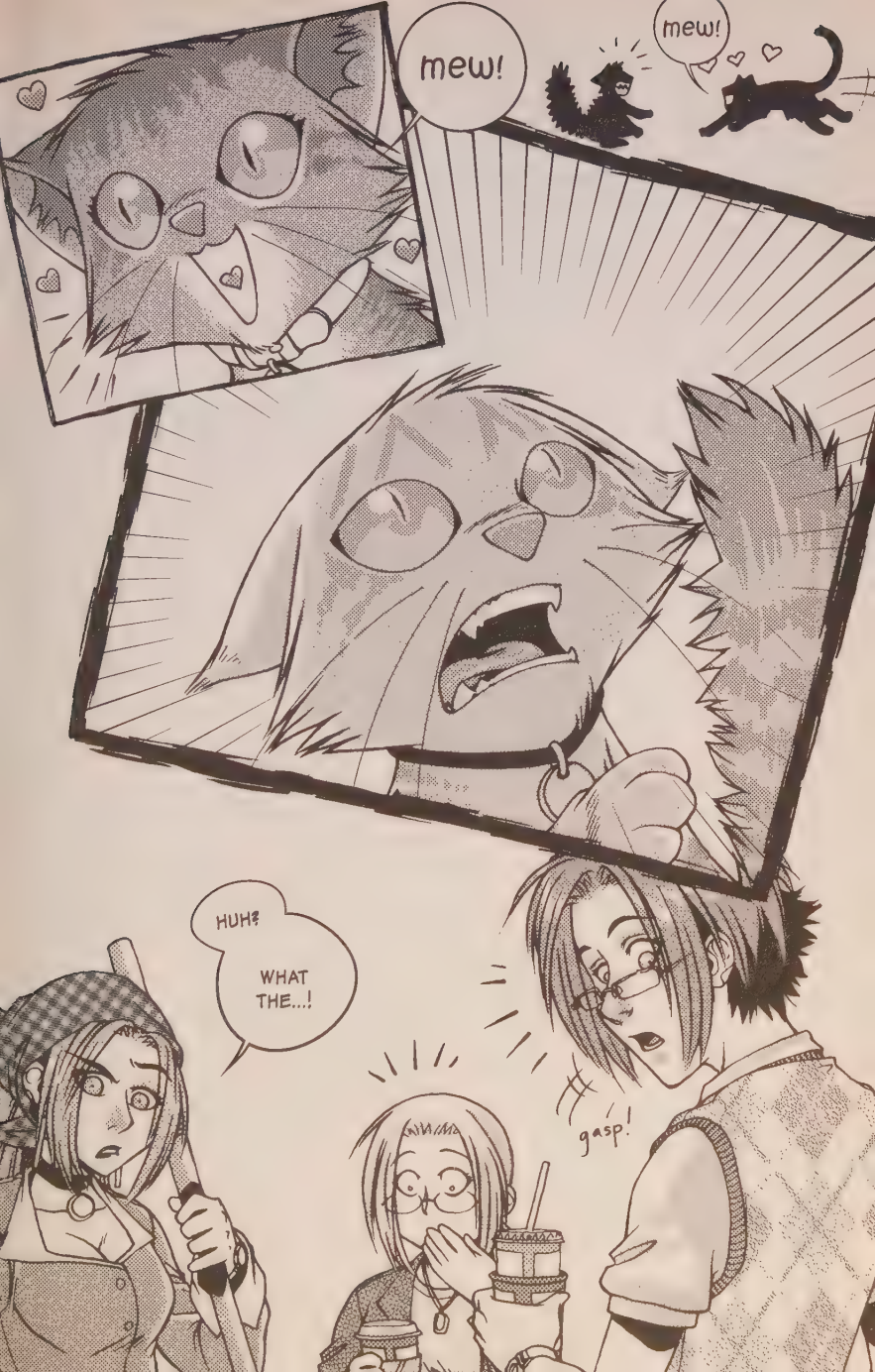
WELL, HAVE
FUN SHOWING
HER AROUND.

I NEED
TO GET
BACK TO
WORK.

mew!

mew!



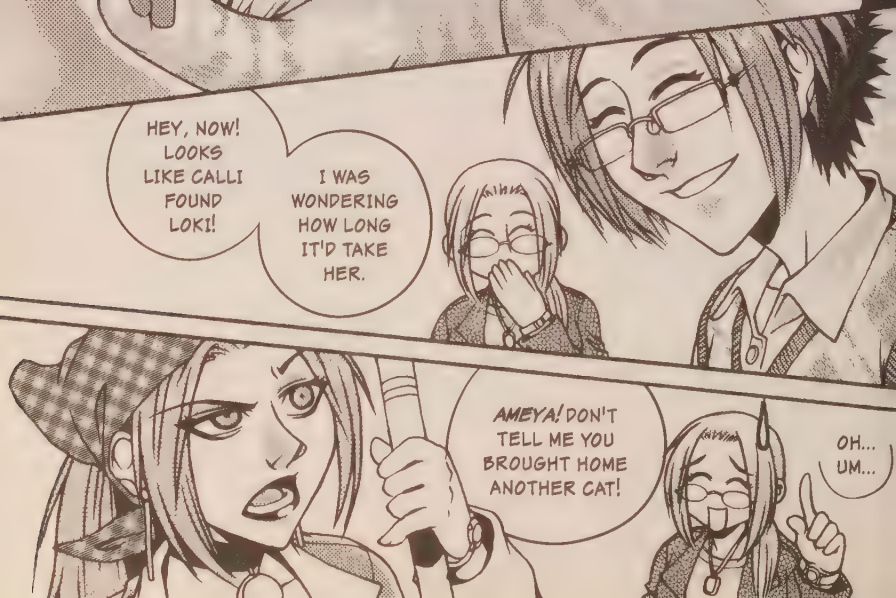




MEW!

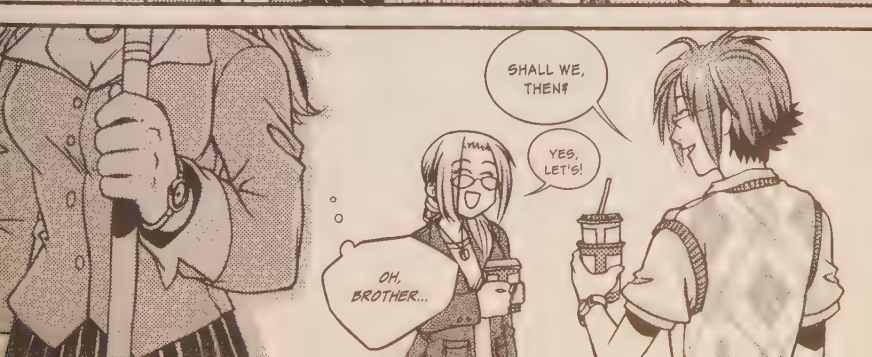
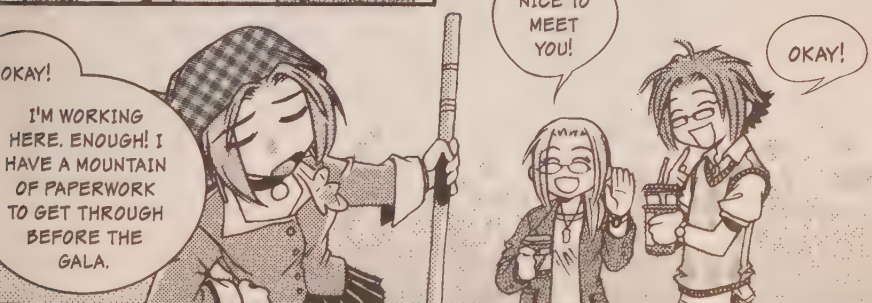
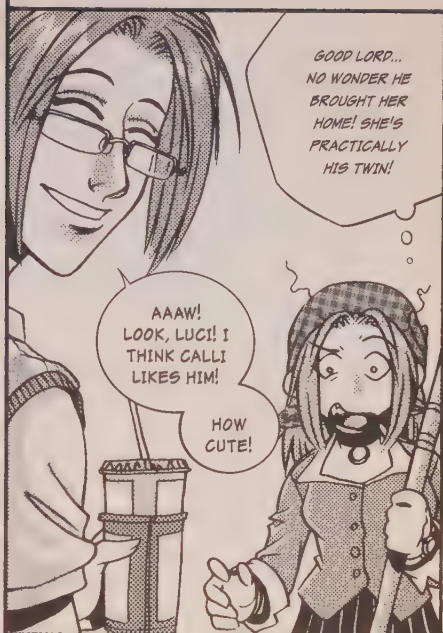
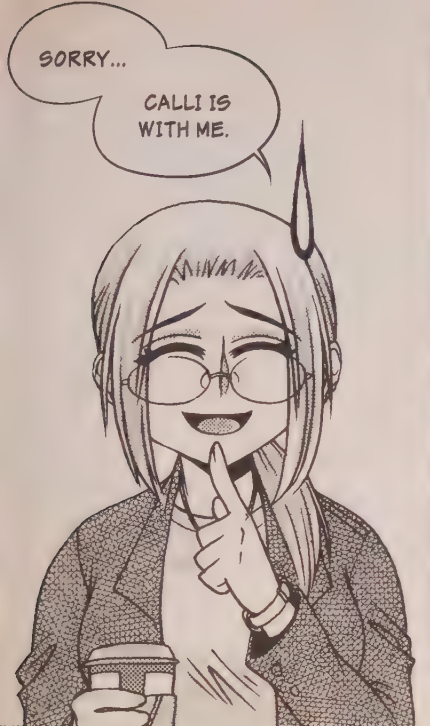
HEY, NOW!
LOOKS
LIKE CALLI
FOUND
LOKI!

I WAS
WONDERING
HOW LONG
IT'D TAKE
HER.



AMEYA! DON'T
TELL ME YOU
BROUGHT HOME
ANOTHER CAT!

OH...
UM...



A manga-style illustration. On the left, a girl with long hair and a headscarf holds a broom, looking angry. In the center, a cat with a collar and heart-shaped tag looks up at her. On the right, a close-up of a girl's face shows her with a determined, slightly menacing expression. At the bottom, two cats are shown in a playful, pouncing pose. The entire scene is divided into panels by diagonal lines.

AS FOR
YOU TWO!

I SPENT HOURS
CLEANING THIS
PLACE UP!

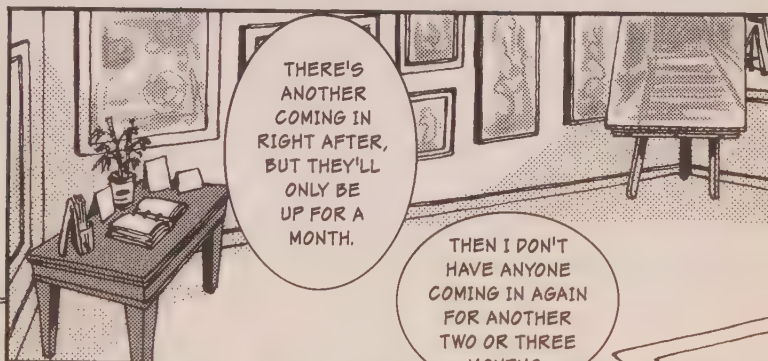
DON'T
YOU
DARE
MAKE A
MESS

OR ELSE!

mew!

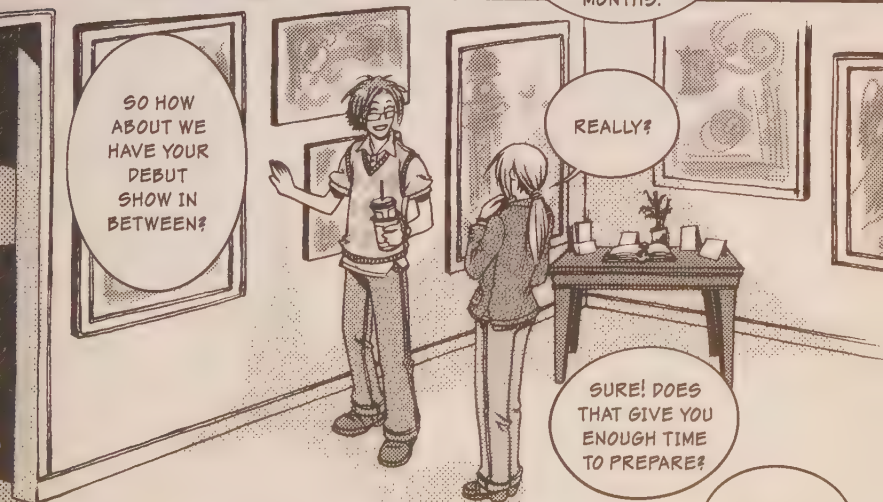


THE
CURRENTLY
FEATURED
ARTIST WILL
BE DONE
IN ABOUT
A WEEK.



THERE'S
ANOTHER
COMING IN
RIGHT AFTER,
BUT THEY'LL
ONLY BE
UP FOR A
MONTH.

THEN I DON'T
HAVE ANYONE
COMING IN AGAIN
FOR ANOTHER
TWO OR THREE
MONTHS.

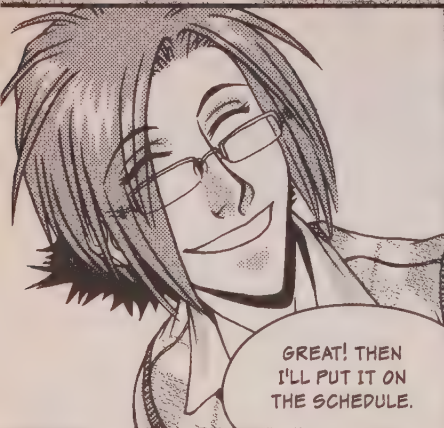


SO HOW
ABOUT WE
HAVE YOUR
DEBUT
SHOW IN
BETWEEN?

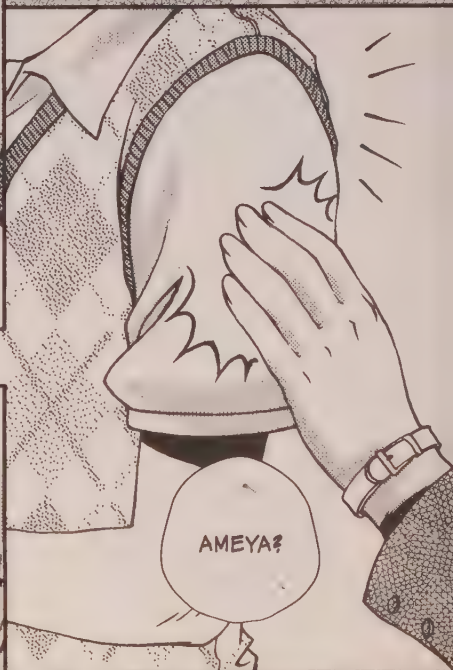
REALLY?

SURE! DOES
THAT GIVE YOU
ENOUGH TIME
TO PREPARE?

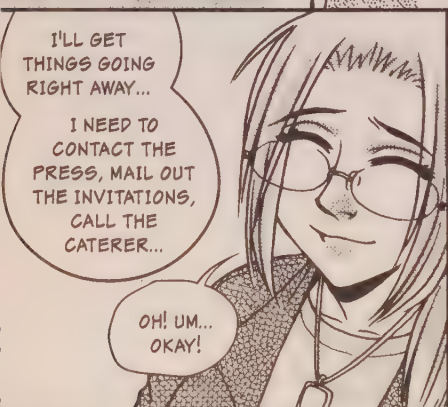
MORE THAN
ENOUGH!



GREAT! THEN
I'LL PUT IT ON
THE SCHEDULE.



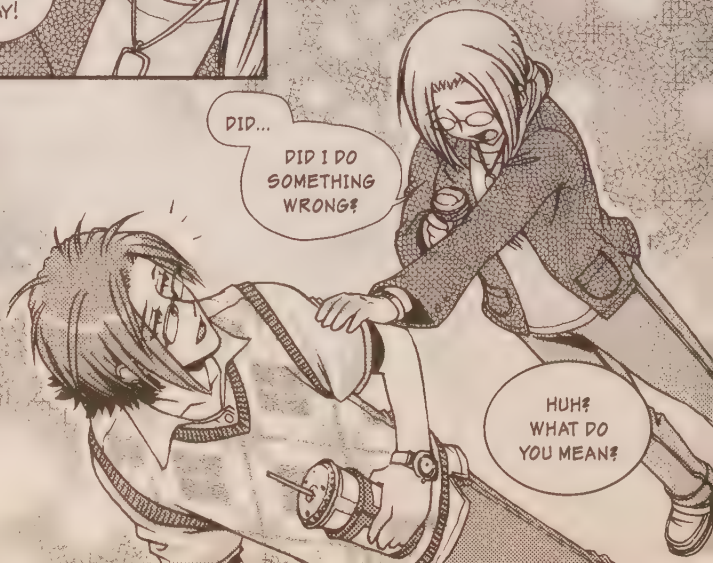
AMEYA?



I'LL GET
THINGS GOING
RIGHT AWAY...

I NEED TO
CONTACT THE
PRESS, MAIL OUT
THE INVITATIONS,
CALL THE
CATERER...

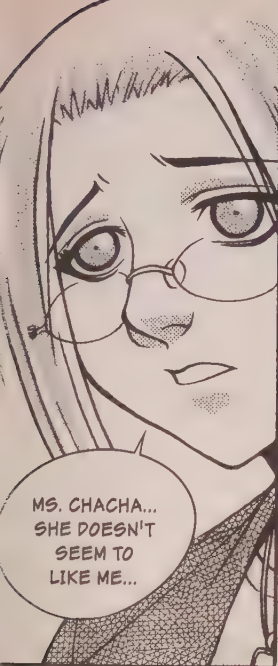
OH! UM...
OKAY!



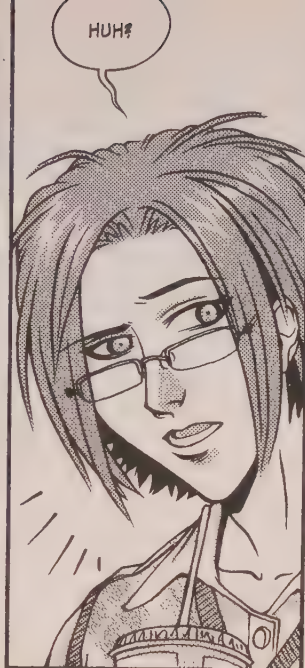
DID...

DID I DO
SOMETHING
WRONG?

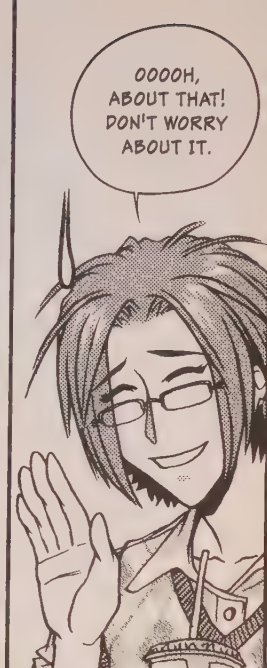
HUH?
WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



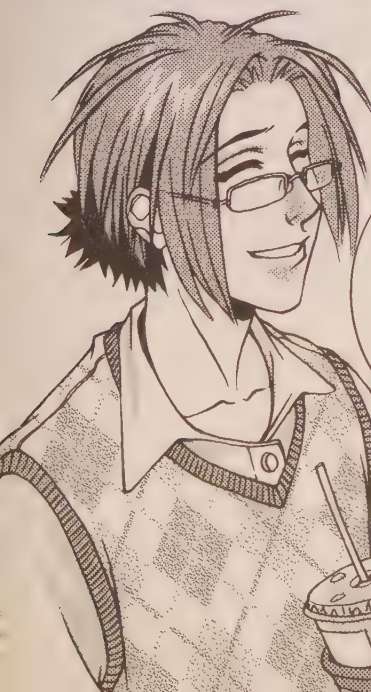
MS. CHACHA...
SHE DOESN'T
SEEM TO
LIKE ME...



HUH?



OOOOH,
ABOUT THAT!
DON'T WORRY
ABOUT IT.

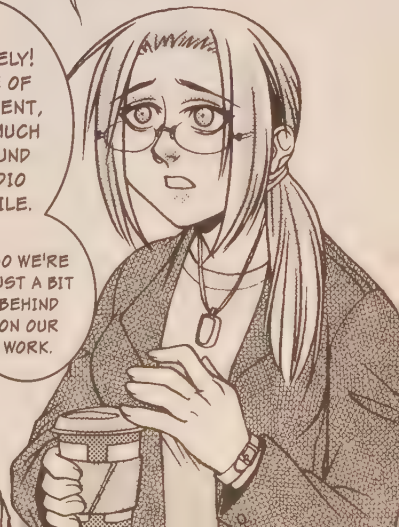


ABSOLUTELY!
BECAUSE OF
THE ACCIDENT,
I WASN'T MUCH
USE AROUND
THE STUDIO
FOR A WHILE.



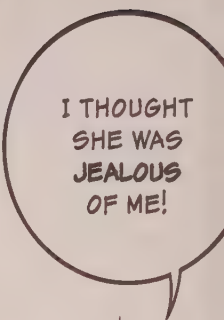
ARE YOU
SURE?

SO WE'RE
JUST A BIT
BEHIND ON OUR
WORK.

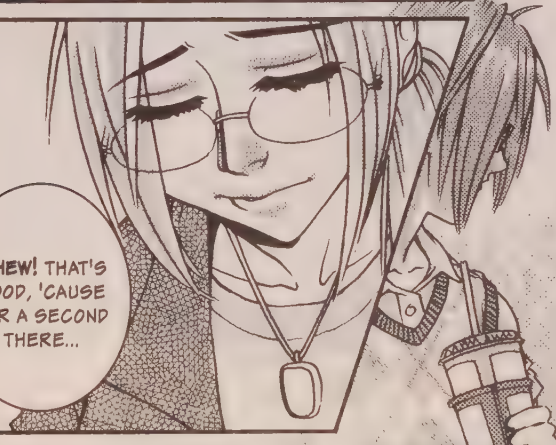




I GUESS
SHE'S
BEEN A
LITTLE
STRESSED
LATELY
BECAUSE
OF IT.



I THOUGHT
SHE WAS
JEALOUS
OF ME!



PHEW! THAT'S
GOOD, 'CAUSE
FOR A SECOND
THERE...

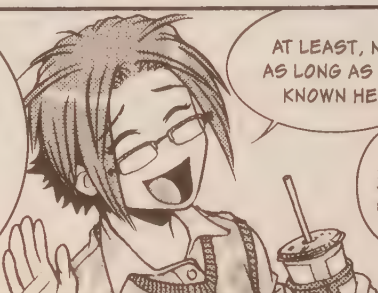


AH HA HA HA!



MS. CHACHA?
JEALOUS?!!

THAT'S TOO
MUCH!

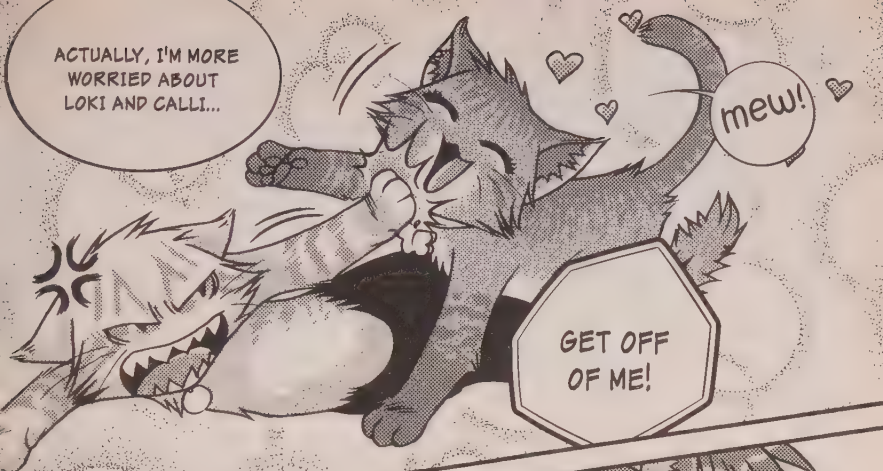


I REALLY
WOULDN'T
WORRY. MS.
CHACHA HAS
NEVER BEEN
JEALOUS OF
ANYTHING.

AT LEAST, NOT
AS LONG AS I'VE
KNOWN HER.



I HOPE
YOU'RE
RIGHT.



ACTUALLY, I'M MORE
WORRIED ABOUT
LOKI AND CALLI...

mew!

GET OFF
OF ME!



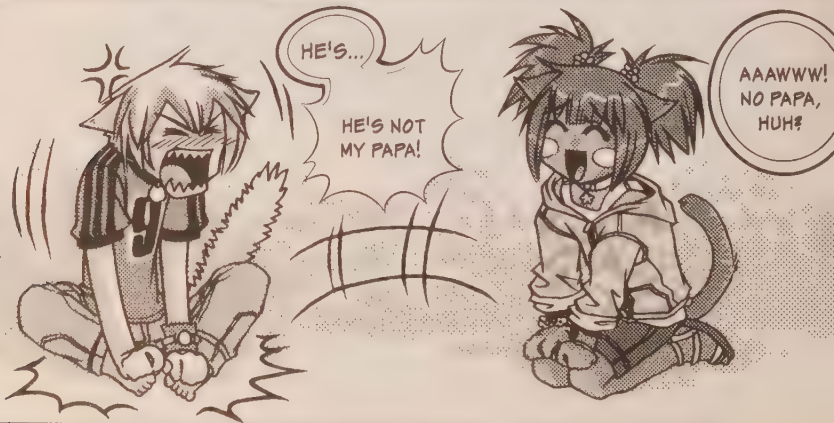
AAAАWWW!

BUT CALLI
WANTS TO
PLAY!



YEAH, WELL
I DON'T!

SO
SCRAM!





AH! I'VE
GOT IT!

THEN
HE'S YOUR
FRIEND!



HE'S NOT MY
FRIEND...



I DON'T HAVE
ANY FRIENDS.

YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY
FRIENDS?
AAAAWWW!



AH-HAH! HOW
ABOUT THIS?

CALLI WILL BE
YOUR FRIEND
THEN! TEE HEE!

H
U
H
?!

OH
NONONONO!

YAY!

CALLI HAS A
NEW FRIEND!



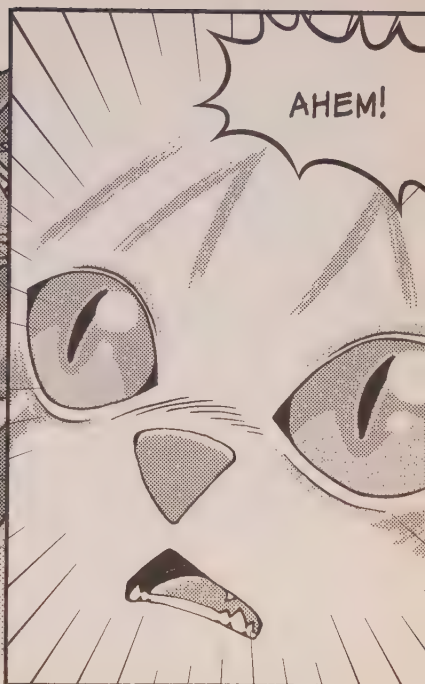
LET GO
OF ME!

NOPE

NOPE

NOPE!

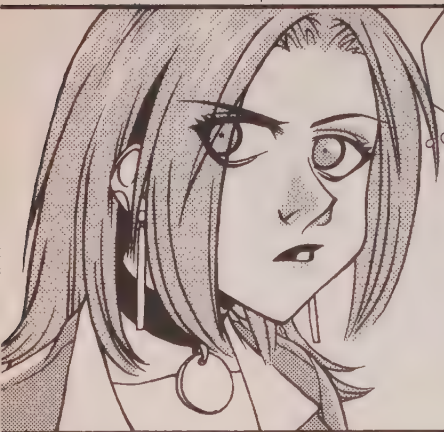
FRIENDS
NEVER LET
GO!



AHEM!



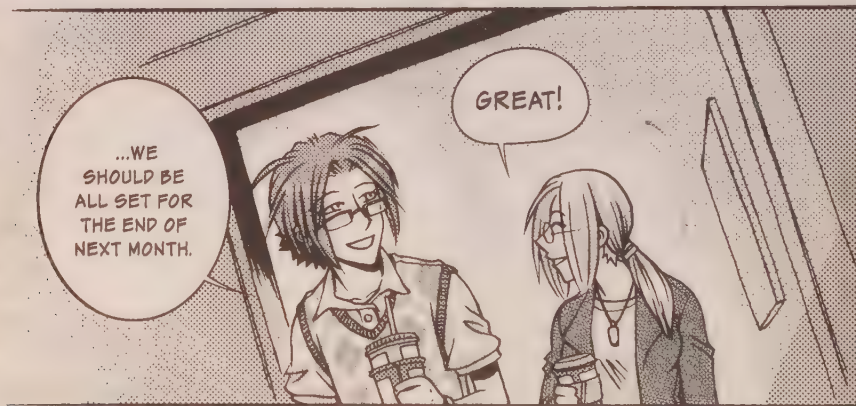
JUST WHAT DO
YOU THINK YOU'RE
DOING ON MY NICE
CLEAN FLOOR?!



GREAT! HER
CAT IS STILL
HERE...

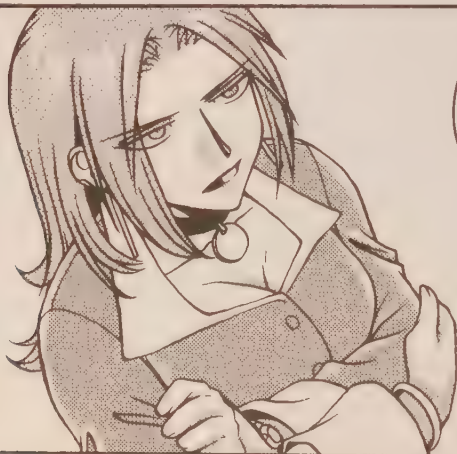
WHICH
CAN ONLY
MEAN...

IF WE
PLAN
THIS
WELL...



...WE
SHOULD BE
ALL SET FOR
THE END OF
NEXT MONTH.

GREAT!



OH MY! LOOK
AT THE TIME!
I SHOULD
GET DINNER
STARTED.

WOULD YOU
LIKE TO STAY?

REALLY? YOU
DON'T MIND?

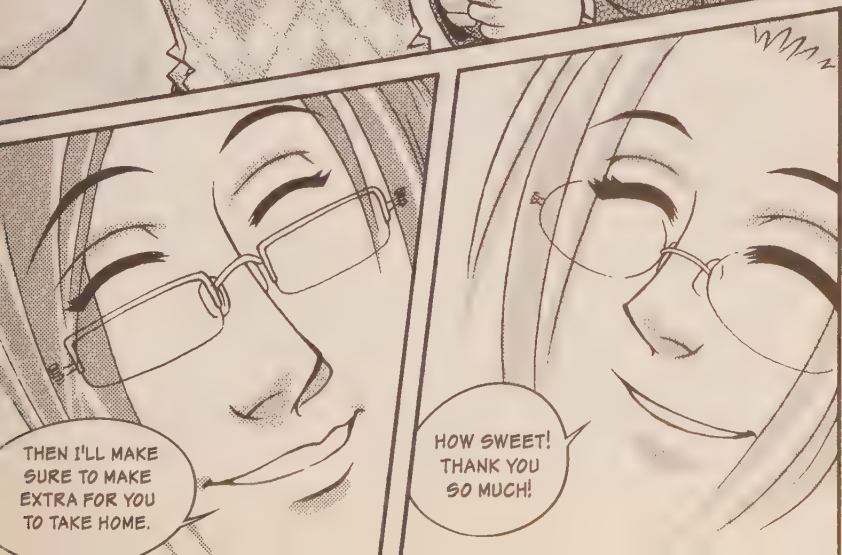
I WOULDN'T
WANT TO BE ANY
TROUBLE.



NO, NO.
IT'S NO
TROUBLE
AT ALL!

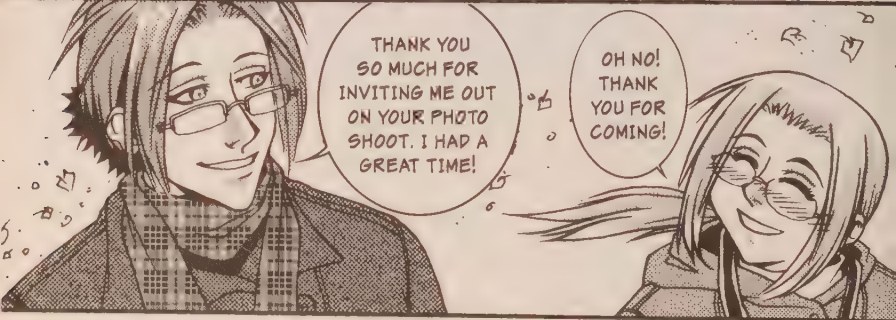
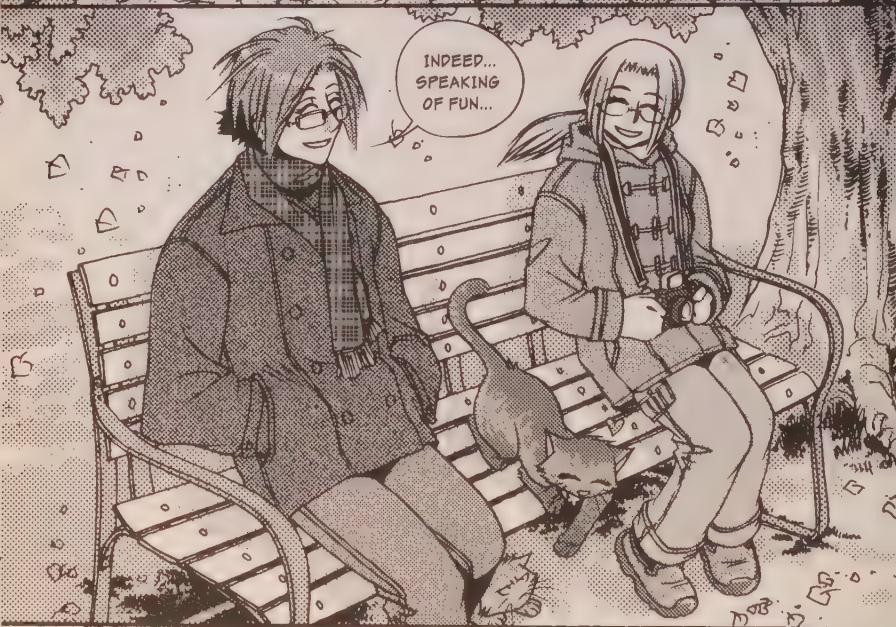
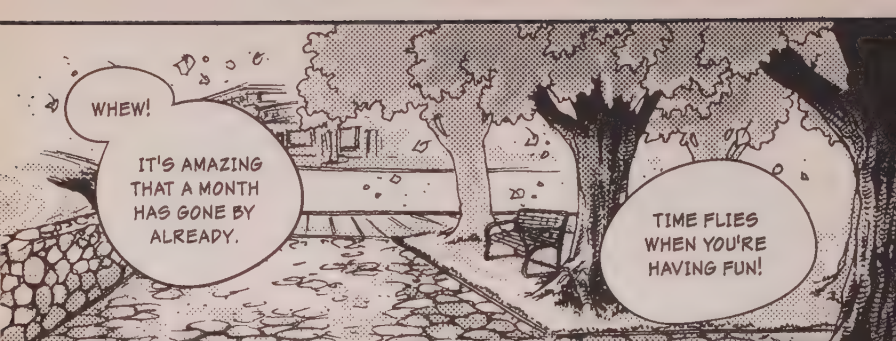
BESIDES,
YOU HAVE
TO TRY MY
DAD'S FAMOUS
SPAGHETTI
RECIPE!

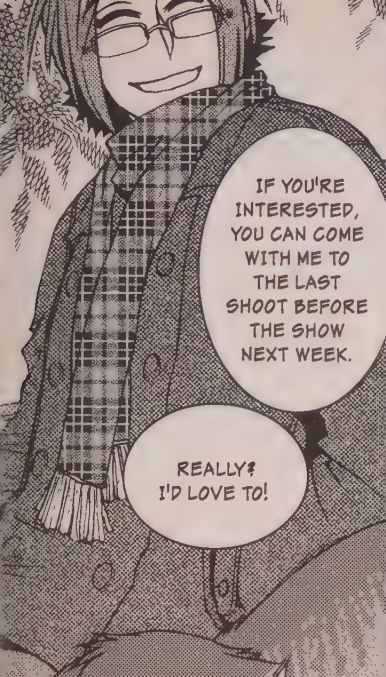
OH, YUM!
I'D LOVE
TO TRY!



THEN I'LL MAKE
SURE TO MAKE
EXTRA FOR YOU
TO TAKE HOME.

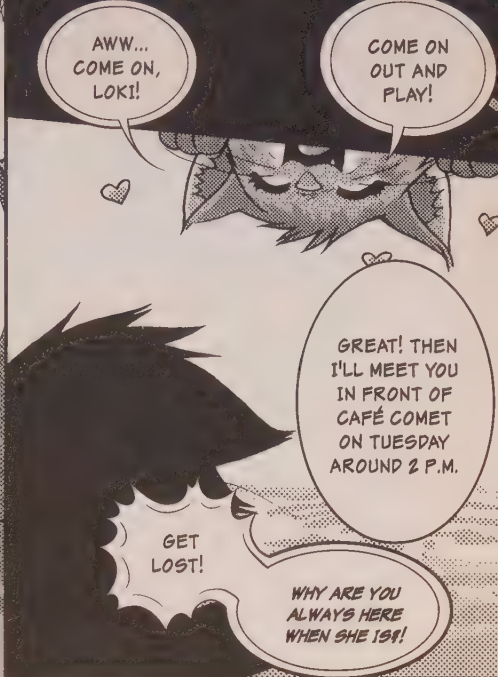
HOW SWEET!
THANK YOU
SO MUCH!





IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, YOU CAN COME WITH ME TO THE LAST SHOOT BEFORE THE SHOW NEXT WEEK.

REALLY?
I'D LOVE TO!



AWW...
COME ON,
LOKI!

COME ON
OUT AND
PLAY!

GREAT! THEN I'LL MEET YOU IN FRONT OF CAFÉ COMET ON TUESDAY AROUND 2 P.M.

GET
LOST!

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS HERE WHEN SHE IS?



TEE HEE!

'CAUSE THEN I GET TO SEE YOU, SILLY!

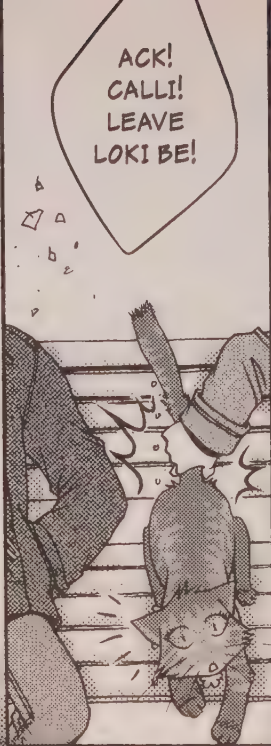
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU!

AND I'M SICK OF HIM SEEING HER, TOO!

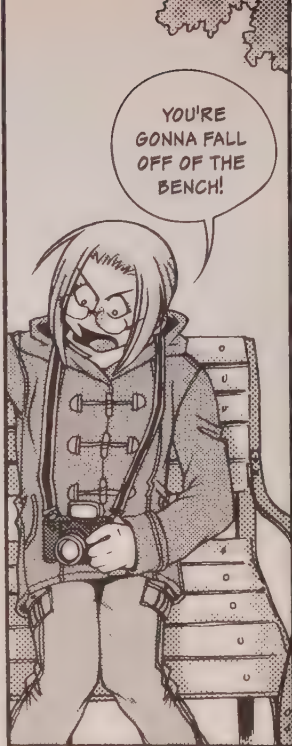
NOW GO AWAY AND LEAVE US ALONE!



HEH...



ACK!
CALL!
LEAVE
LOKI BE!




YOU'RE
GONNA FALL
OFF OF THE
BENCH!



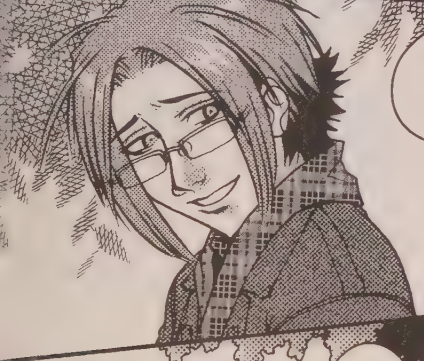
AND SPEAKING
OF LEAVING, I
UNFORTUNATELY
NEED TO HEAD
HOME.

HUH?
REALLY?



ARE YOU
SURE YOU
CAN'T STAY
A LITTLE
LONGER?

mew?




I WOULD
LOVE TO STAY
LONGER...

...BUT I HAVE
SOME LOOSE ENDS
I WANT TO TIE UP
BEFORE YOUR
SHOW.




I'LL
SEE YOU
THEN!

TAKE
CARE!

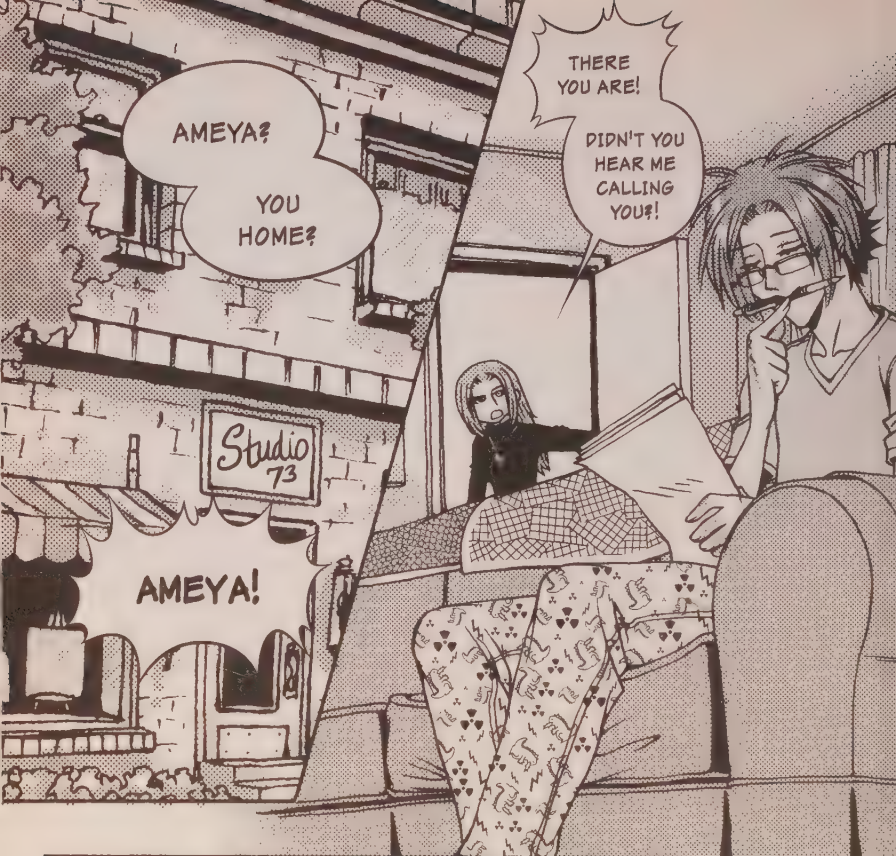


BUT NO
WORRIES!
I WILL
DEFINITELY
MEET YOU
TUESDAY
FOR YOUR
SHOOT.



SIGH...
YOU KNOW,
CALLI...

I COULD
ALMOST FALL
FOR A MAN
LIKE HIM.



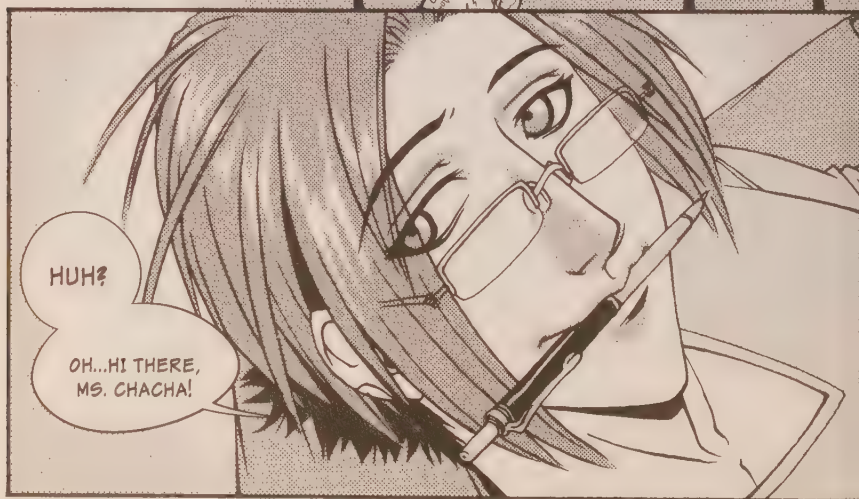
AMEYA?

YOU
HOME?

THERE
YOU ARE!


DIDN'T YOU
HEAR ME
CALLING
YOU?!

AMEYA!

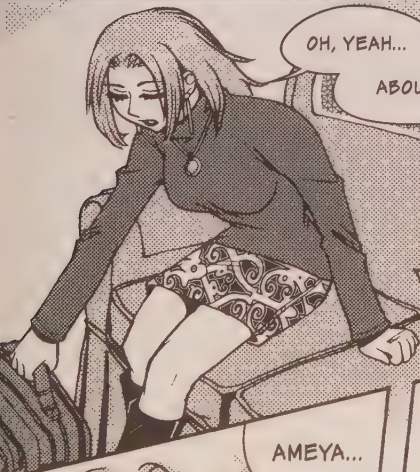


HUH?

OH...HI THERE,
MS. CHACHA!



SORRY ABOUT
THAT. I WAS SO
WRAPPED UP
IN STUFF FOR
LUCI'S SHOW
THAT I DIDN'T
HEAR YOU.



AND TOO WRAPPED
UP TO CHANGE OUT
OF HIS PAJAMAS
TOO, I SEE!

OH, YEAH...

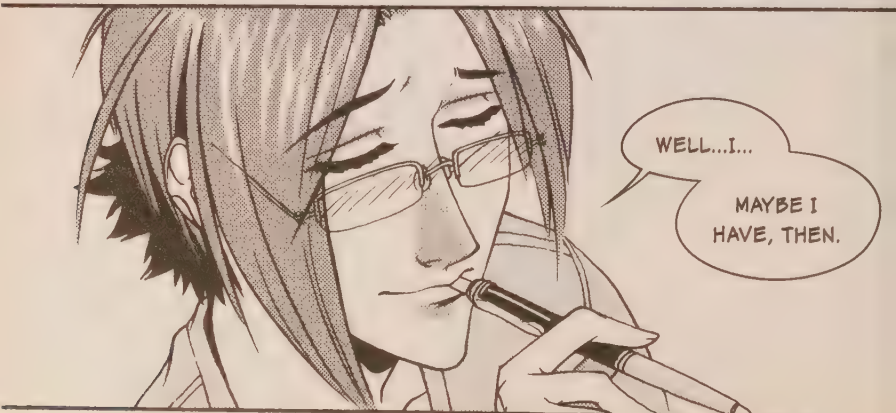
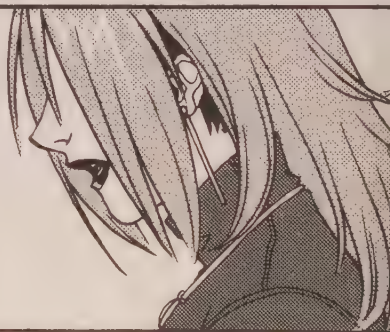
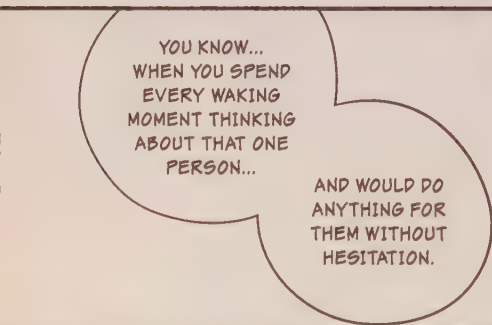
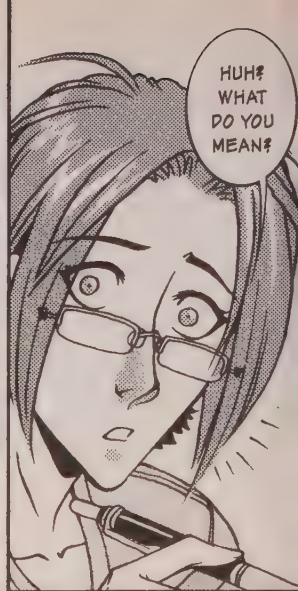
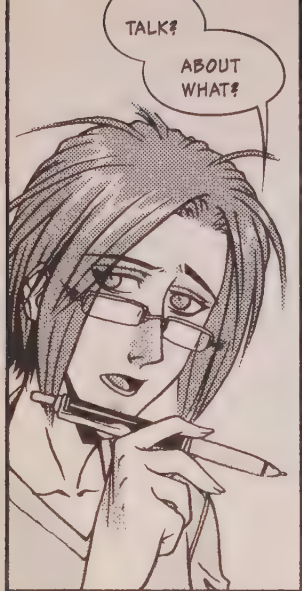
ABOUT THAT.

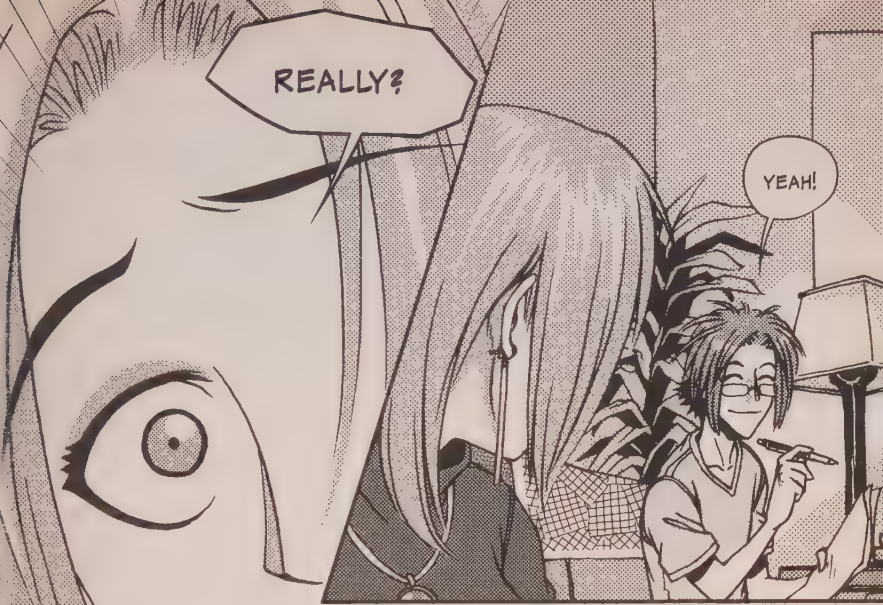


AMEYA...



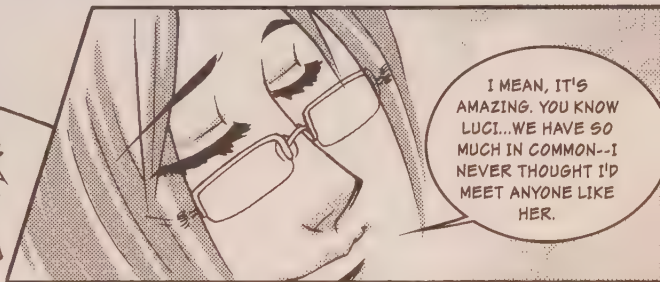
WE NEED
TO TALK.



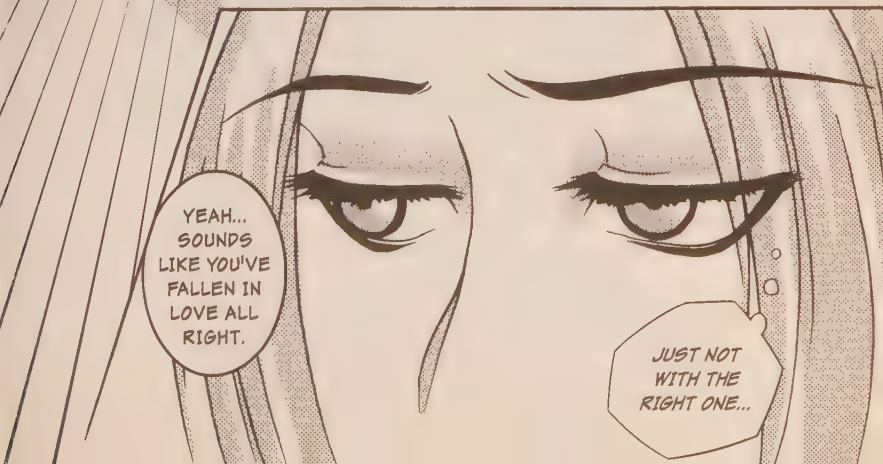


REALLY?

YEAH!

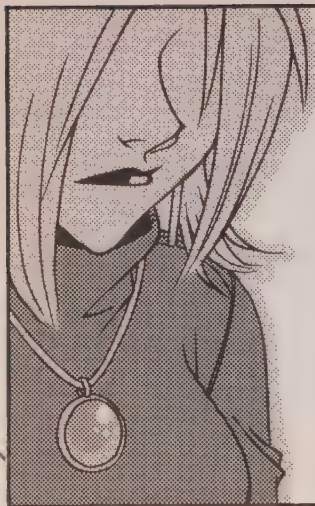


I MEAN, IT'S AMAZING. YOU KNOW LUCI...WE HAVE SO MUCH IN COMMON--I NEVER THOUGHT I'D MEET ANYONE LIKE HER.

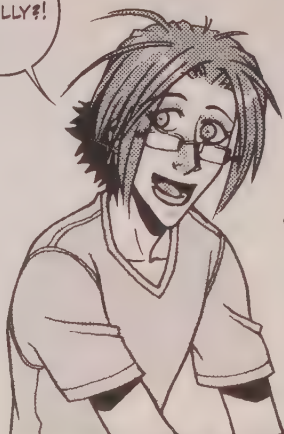


YEAH... SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE ALL RIGHT.

JUST NOT WITH THE RIGHT ONE...



REALLY?!



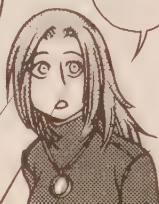
DO YOU
REALLY
THINK
SO?!

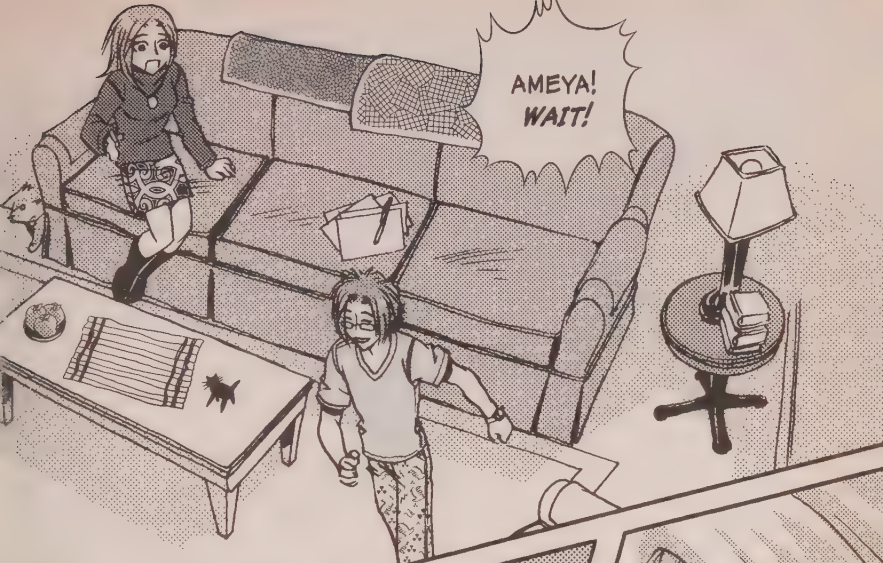
OH, WOW!
THIS IS
GREAT!

I NEED TO
CALL HER...
MAYBE ASK
HER OUT FOR
DINNER AFTER
HER SHOW'S
OPENING
NIGHT!

WHAT?!

RIGHT
NOW?





HELLO?

LUCI? IT'S
AMEYA.

PRETTY
GOOD, AND
YOU?

UM...

I WAS
WONDERING IF
YOU'D LIKE TO
JOIN ME FOR
DINNER AFTER
THE SHOW
TOMORROW
NIGHT?

OH
GOD...

I'M
SUCH A
FOOL.

REALLY?
GREAT!

THEN I'LL SEE
YOU FIRST THING
IN THE MORNING
TO HELP SET UP!

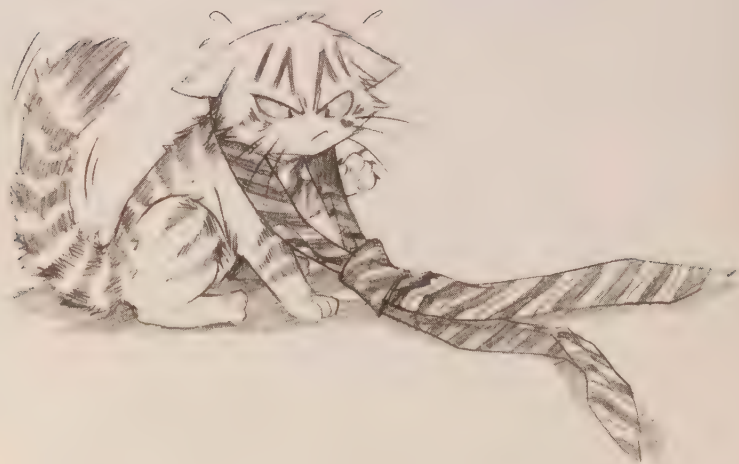
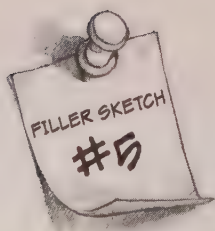
TAKE
CARE!

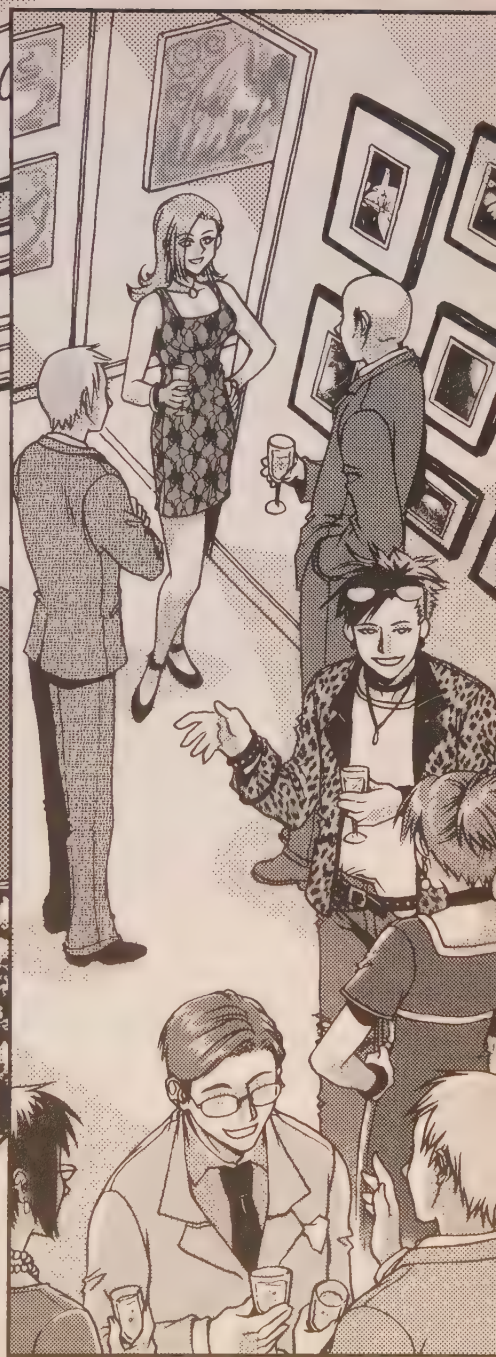
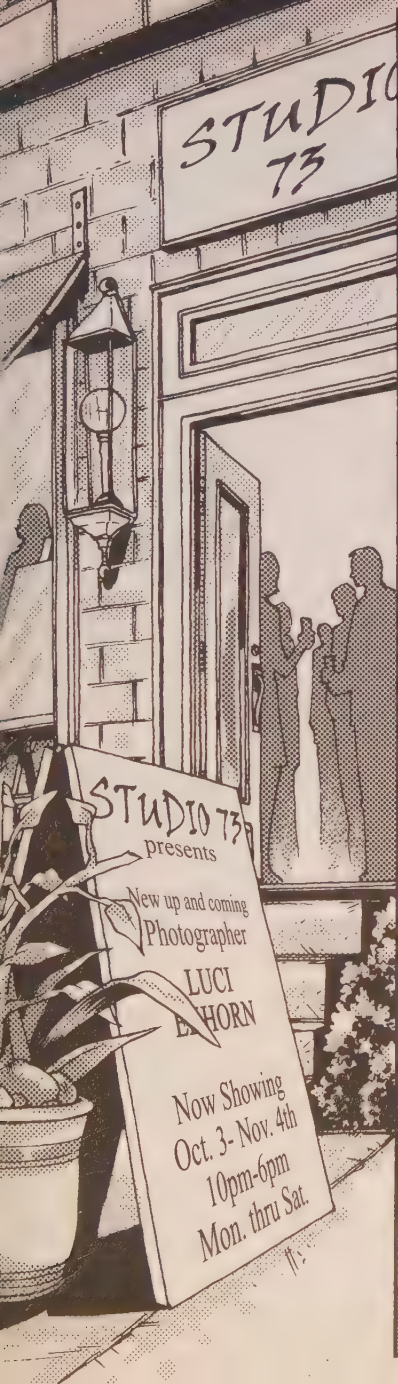
BYE!

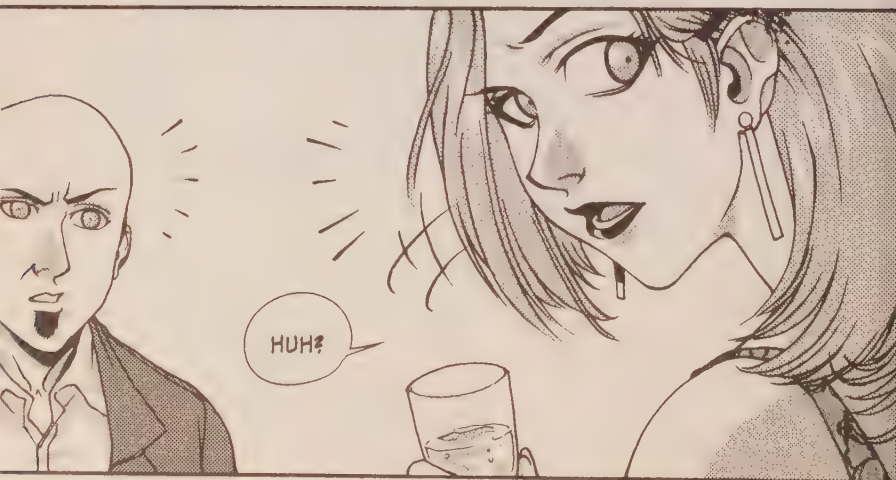
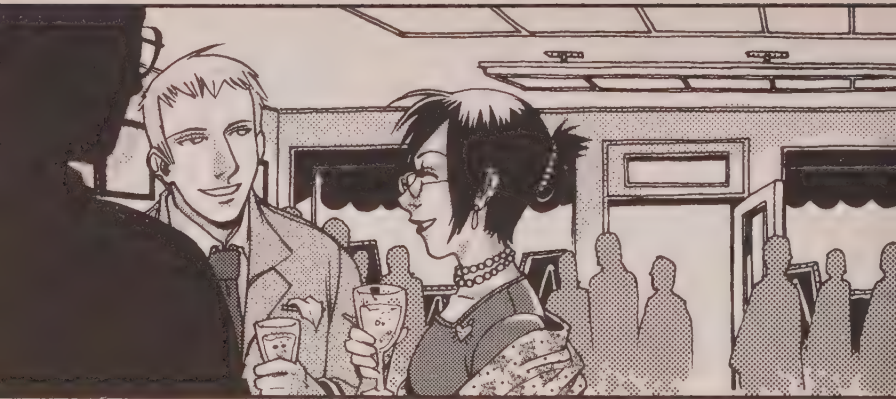


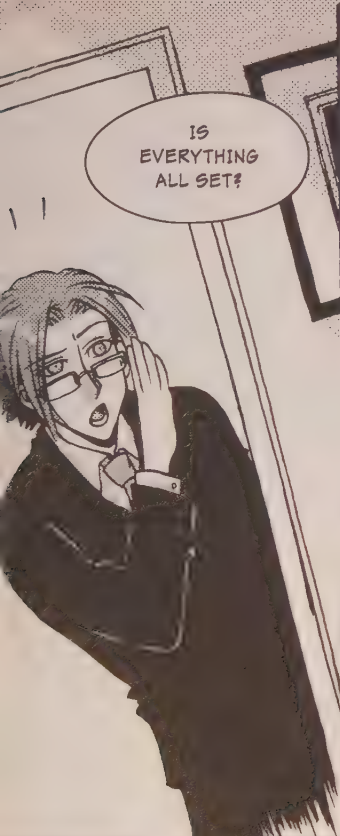
CHAPTER 5



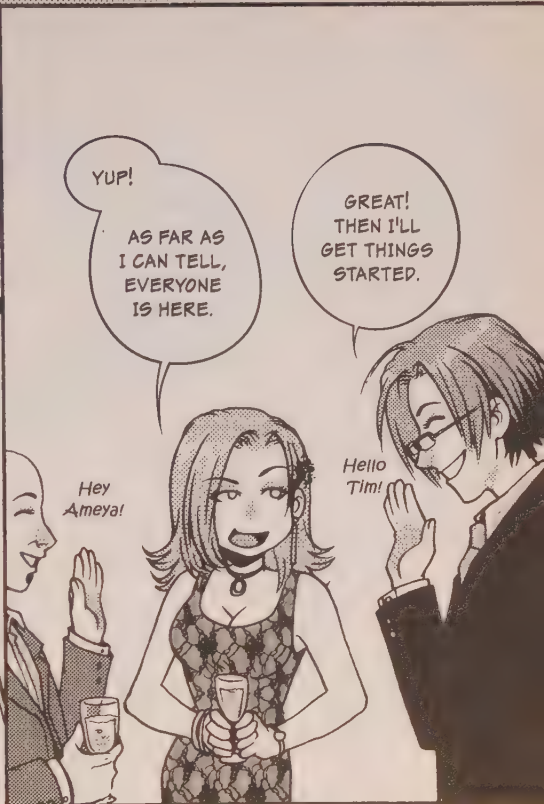








IS
EVERYTHING
ALL SET?



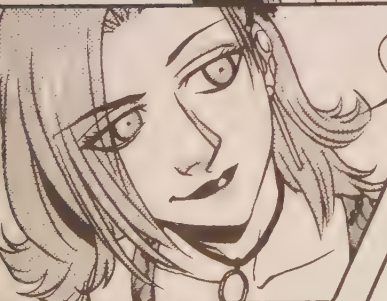
YUP!

AS FAR AS
I CAN TELL,
EVERYONE
IS HERE.

GREAT!
THEN I'LL
GET THINGS
STARTED.

Hey
Ameya!

Hello
Tim!

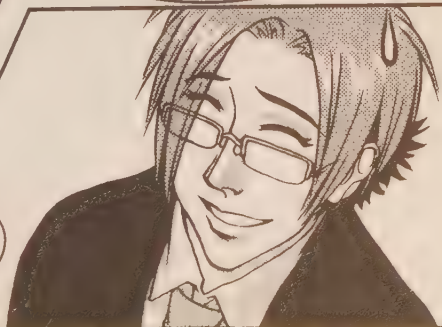


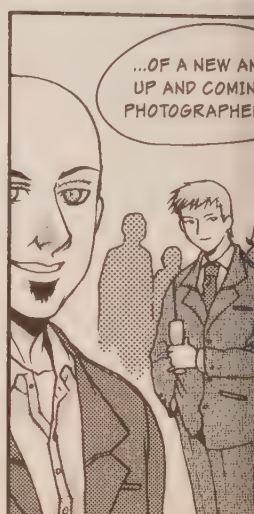
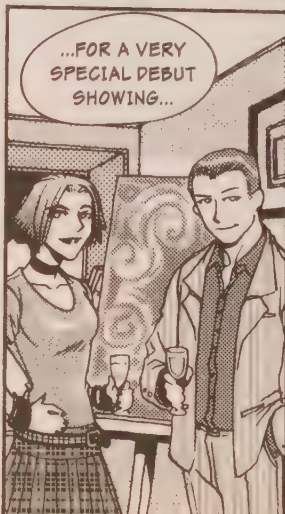
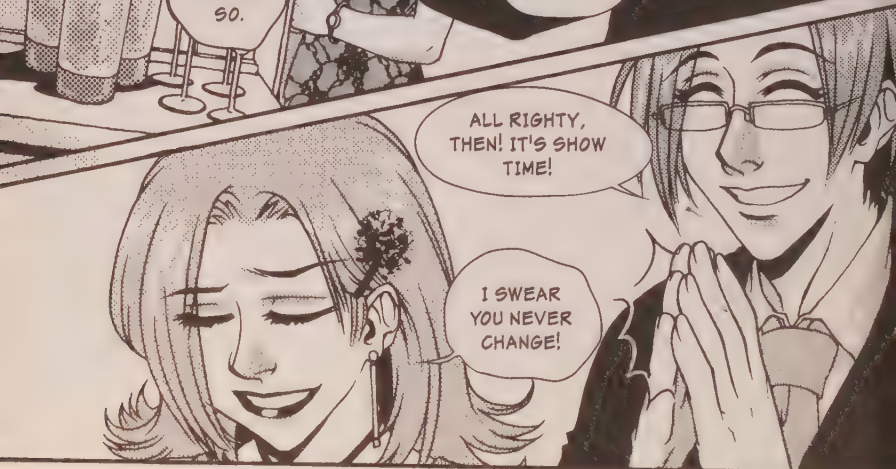
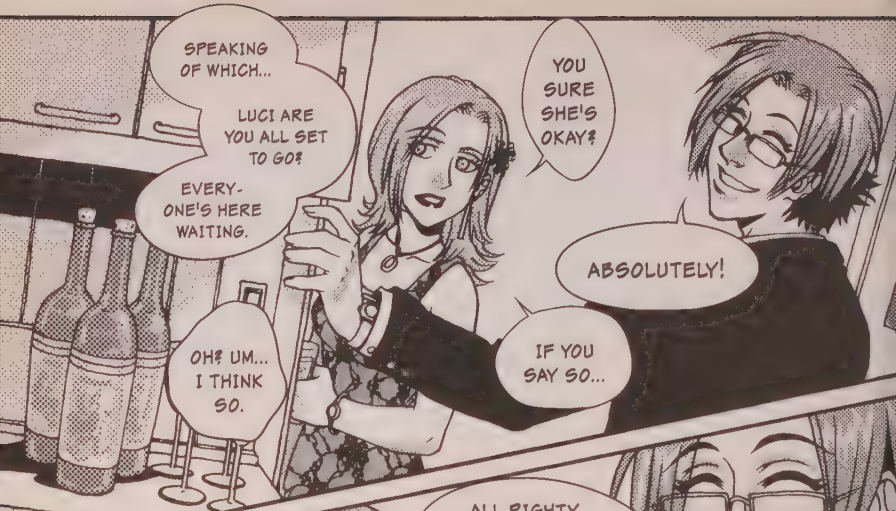
HOW'S LUCI
DOING?

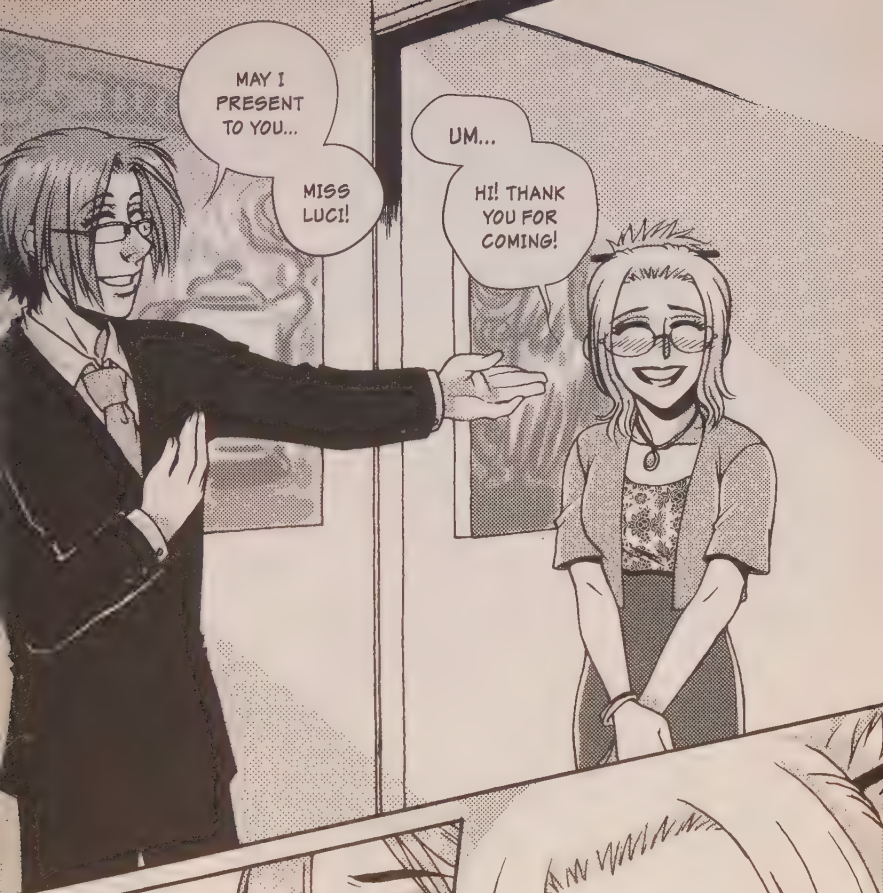
IS HER STOMACH
BETTER NOW?

YEAH...I GAVE HER
SOMETHING FOR
HER NERVES.

SHE'LL
BE FINE.





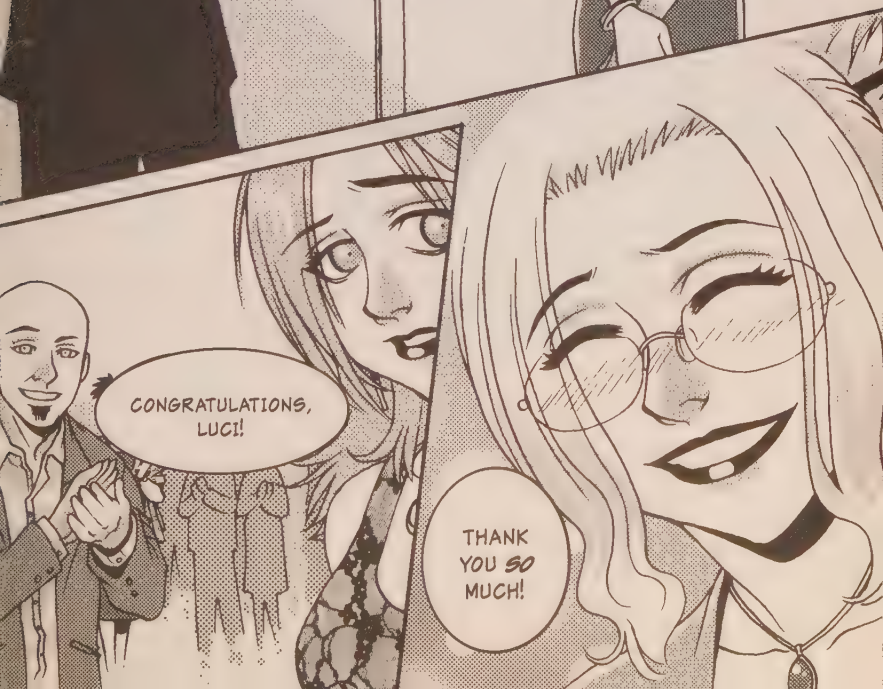


MAY I
PRESENT
TO YOU...

MISS
LUCI!

UM...

HI! THANK
YOU FOR
COMING!



CONGRATULATIONS,
LUCI!

THANK
YOU SO
MUCH!

WOW!

WHAT A
LOVELY LITTLE
RESTAURANT,
AMEYA!

GiGi's
Cuisine

ISN'T
IT?

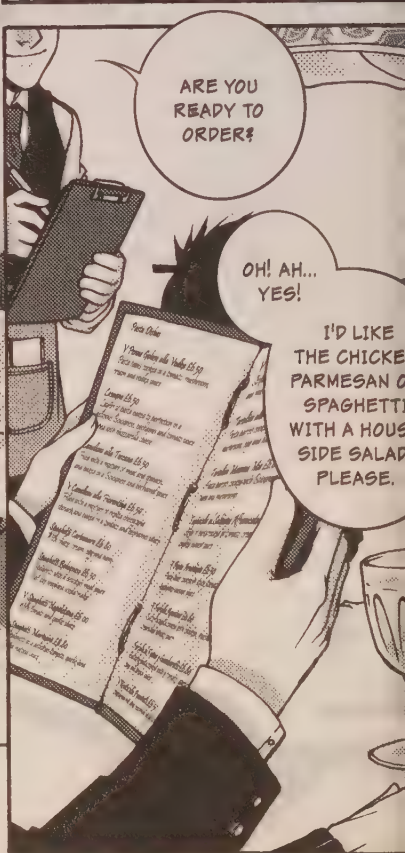
MUM AND DAD
USED TO TAKE
ME HERE FOR
MY BIRTHDAY
WHEN I WAS
YOUNG.

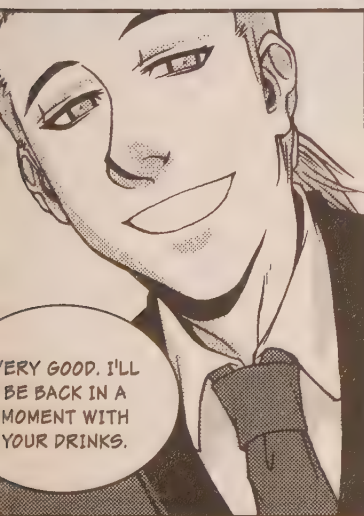
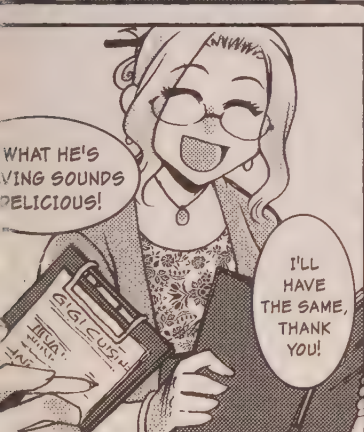
EHEH...WHY
DOES THAT NOT
SURPRISE ME?

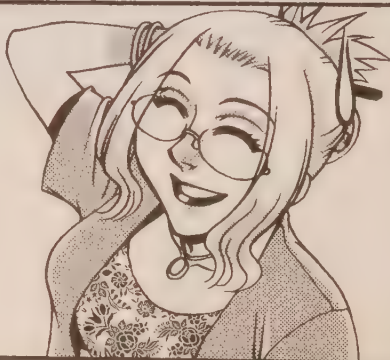
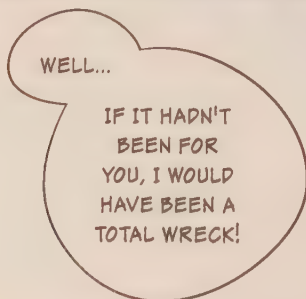
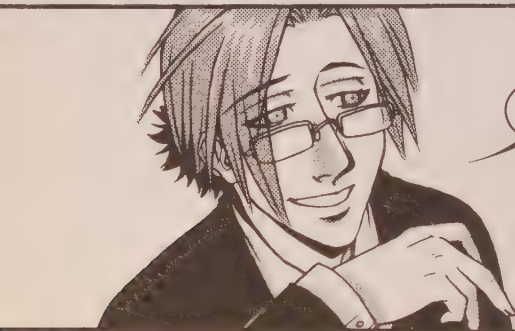
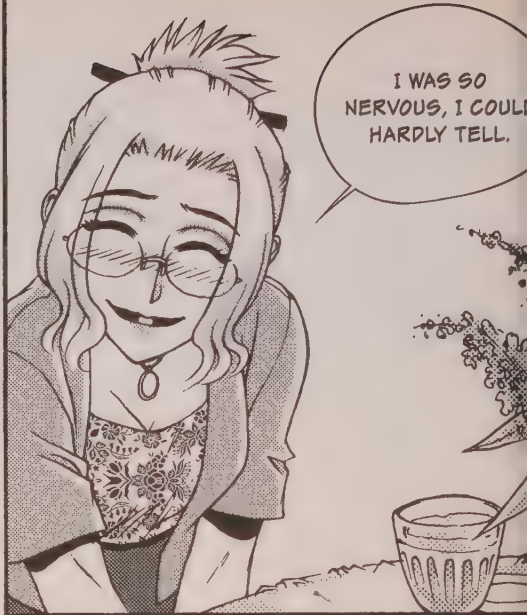
ARE YOU
READY TO
ORDER?

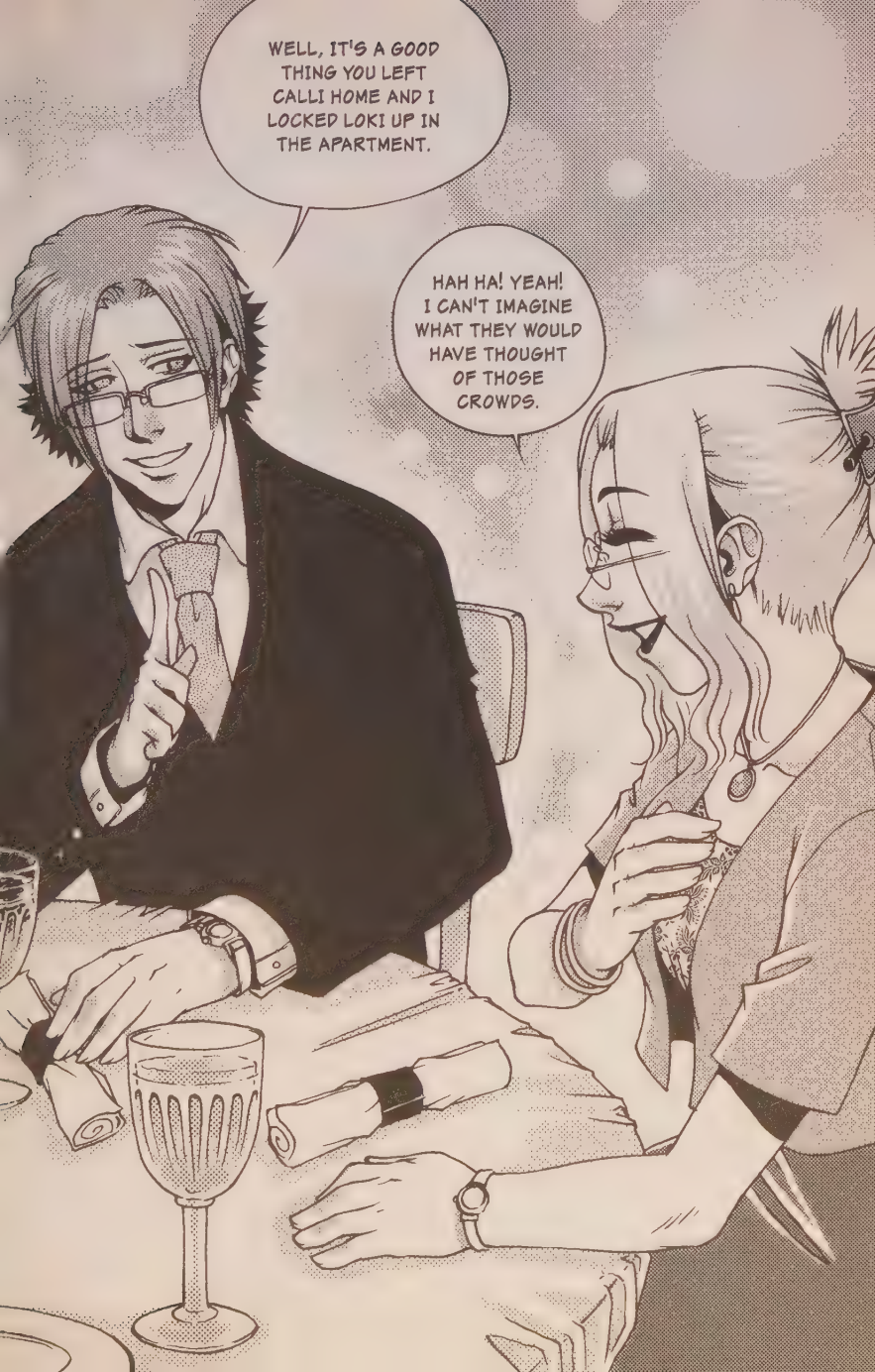
OH! AH...
YES!

I'D LIKE
THE CHICKE
PARMESAN O
SPAGHETTI
WITH A HOUS
SIDE SALAD
PLEASE.



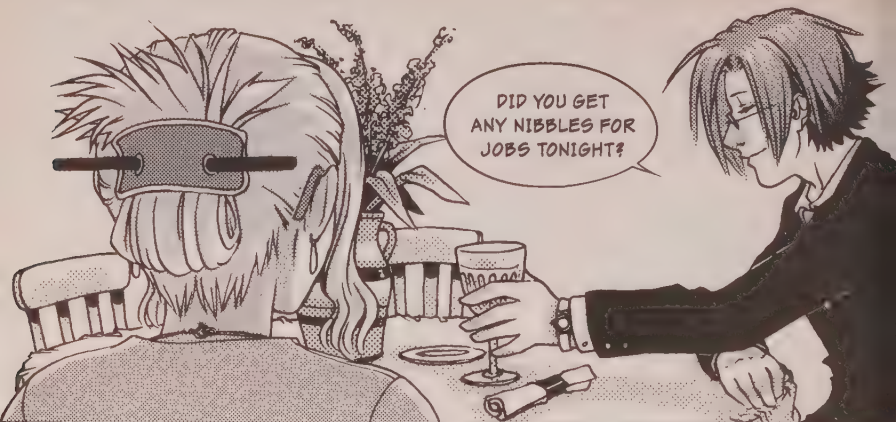






WELL, IT'S A GOOD
THING YOU LEFT
CALLI HOME AND I
LOCKED LOKI UP IN
THE APARTMENT.

HAH HA! YEAH!
I CAN'T IMAGINE
WHAT THEY WOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
OF THOSE
CROWDS.



DID YOU GET
ANY NIBBLES FOR
JOBS TONIGHT?

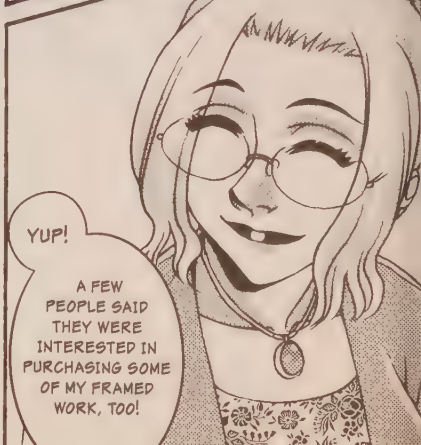


WELL,
JEANNIE PARK
FROM WORLD
GEOGRAPHY AND
MICHAEL CAMA
FROM DREAM
DESIGNS MADE
OFFERS.



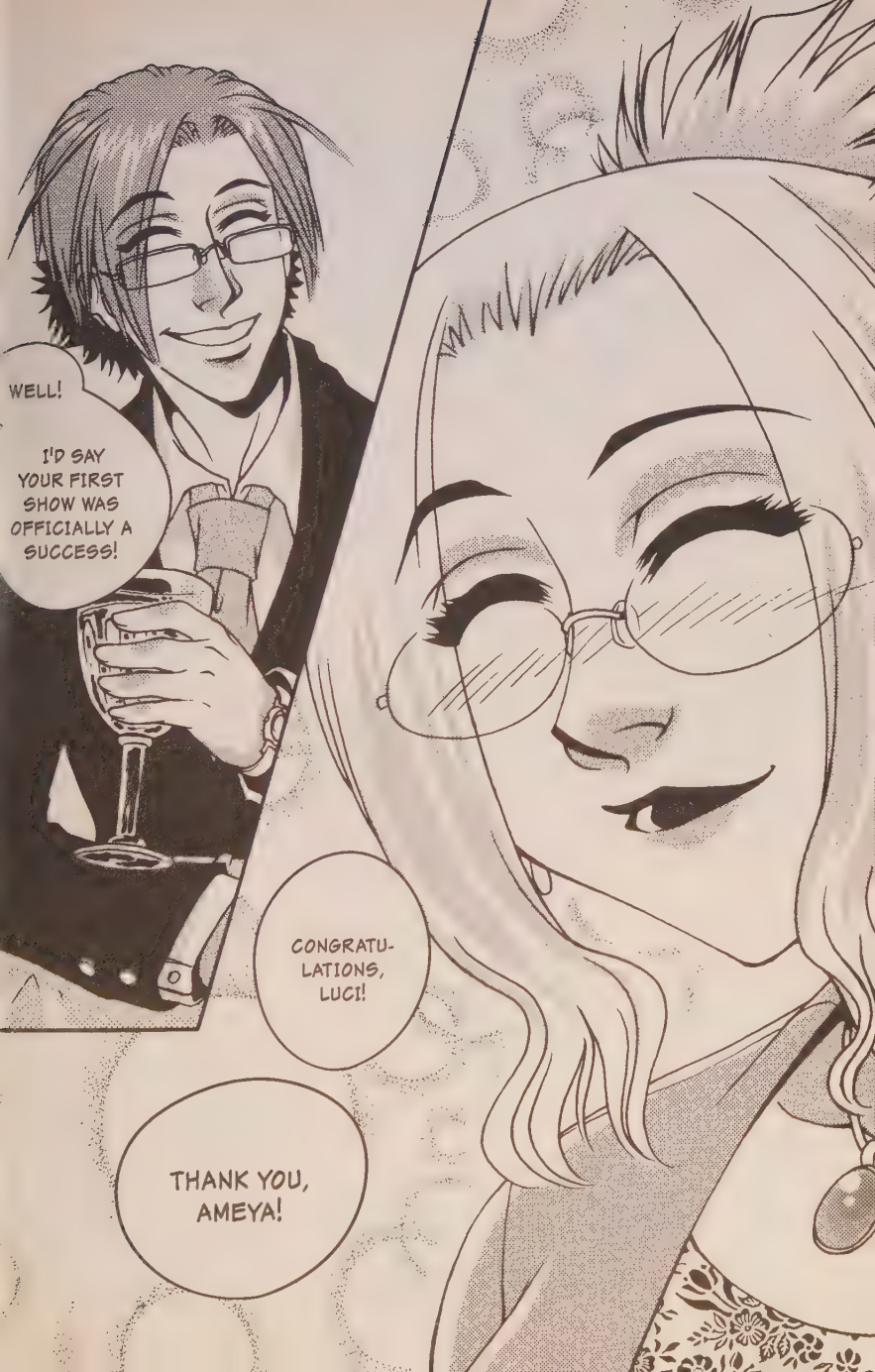
REALLY?

THAT'S
FANTASTIC!



YUP!

A FEW
PEOPLE SAID
THEY WERE
INTERESTED IN
PURCHASING SOME
OF MY FRAMED
WORK, TOO!



WELL!

I'D SAY
YOUR FIRST
SHOW WAS
OFFICIALLY A
SUCCESS!

CONGRATU-
LATIONS,
LUCI!

THANK YOU,
AMEYA!



LUCI...

CAN I...

CAN I ASK YOU
SOMETHING?

SURE!
WHAT IS IT,
AMEYA?

WELL...
I'VE BEEN
DOING SOME
THINKING,
AND...



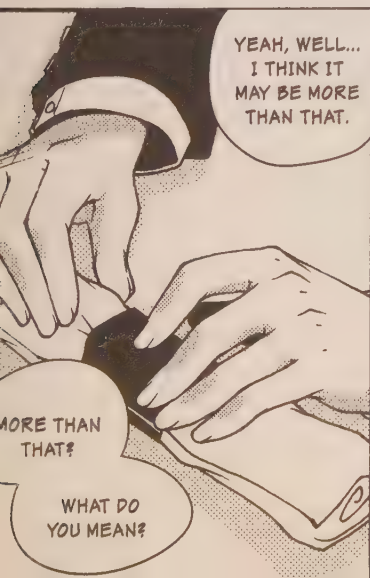
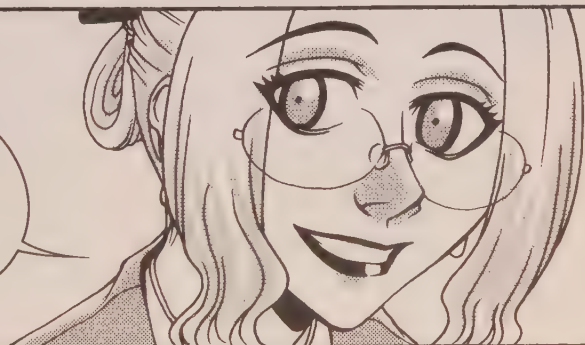


UM...

WE'VE BEEN
SPENDING A
LOT OF TIME
TOGETHER
LATELY.

WELL, YEAH,
SILLY!

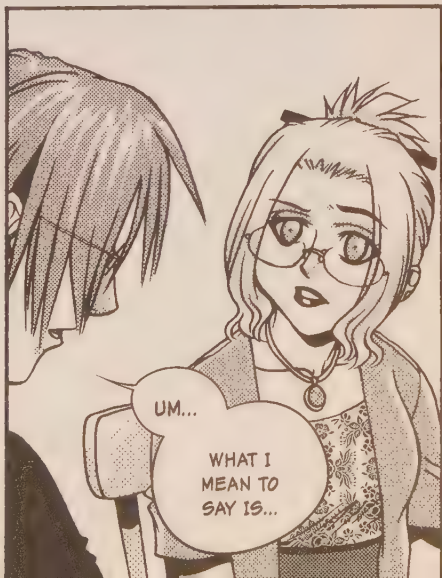
WE WERE
GETTING
READY FOR
THE SHOW!



YEAH, WELL...
I THINK IT
MAY BE MORE
THAN THAT.

MORE THAN
THAT?

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN?



UM...

WHAT I
MEAN TO
SAY IS...

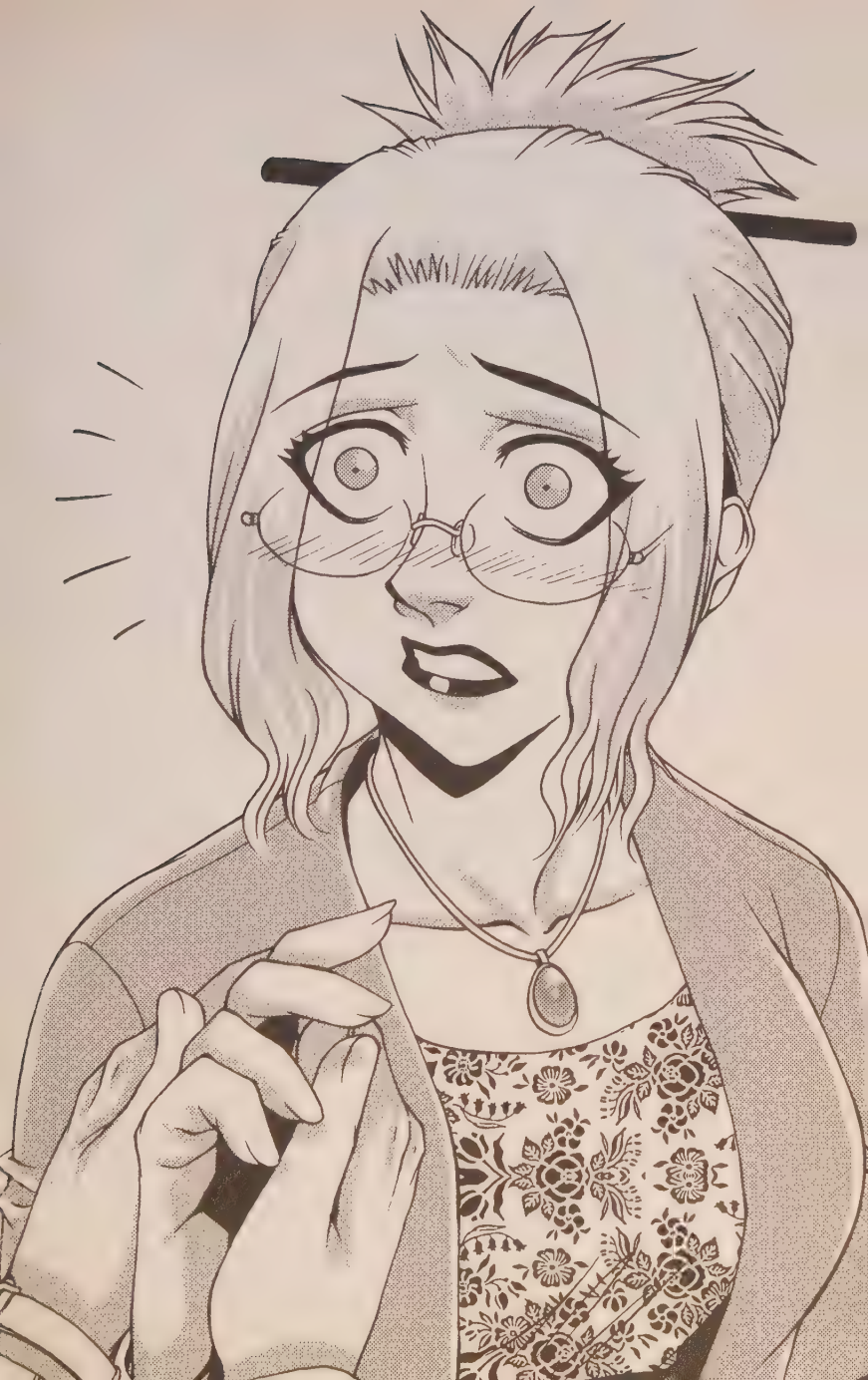


LUCI...

HUH?

...WILL
YOU...

WILL YOU
PLEASE
GO OUT
WITH ME?!





STOP
SULKING,
YOU BIG
BABY!

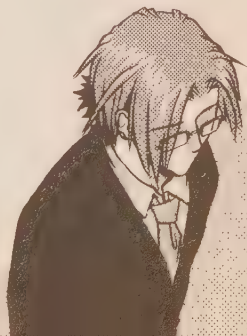
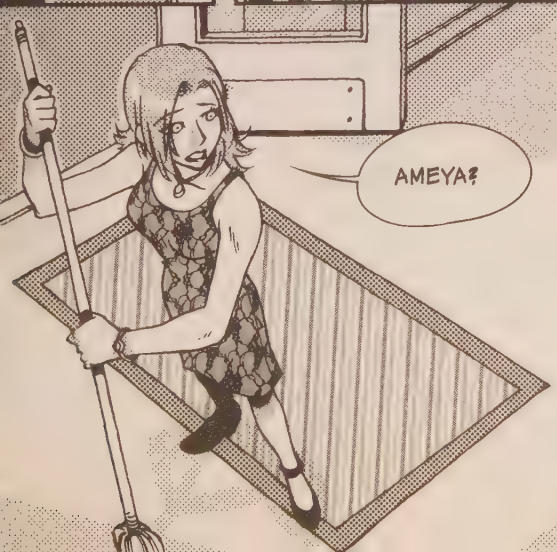
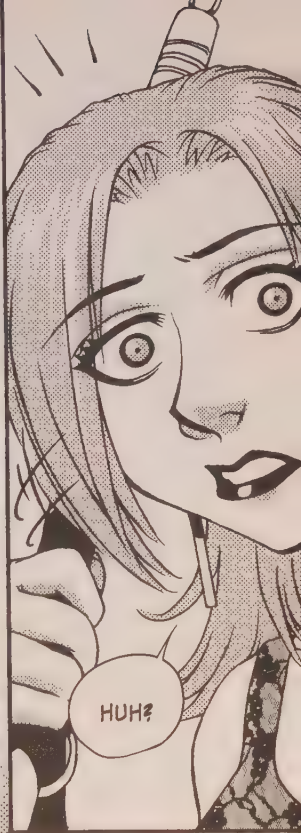
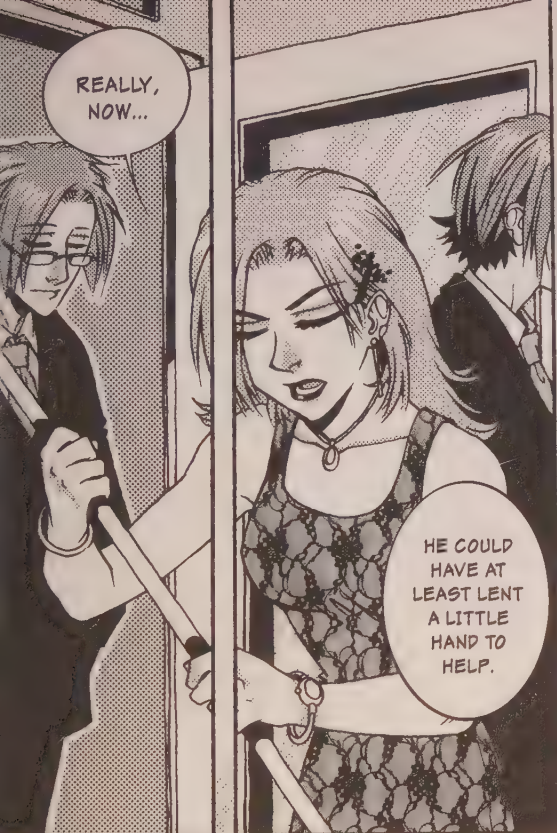
JUST BECAUSE
HE DIDN'T LET YOU
OUT DURING THE
SHOW DOESN'T
MEAN YOU HAVE TO
BE MAD AT ME!

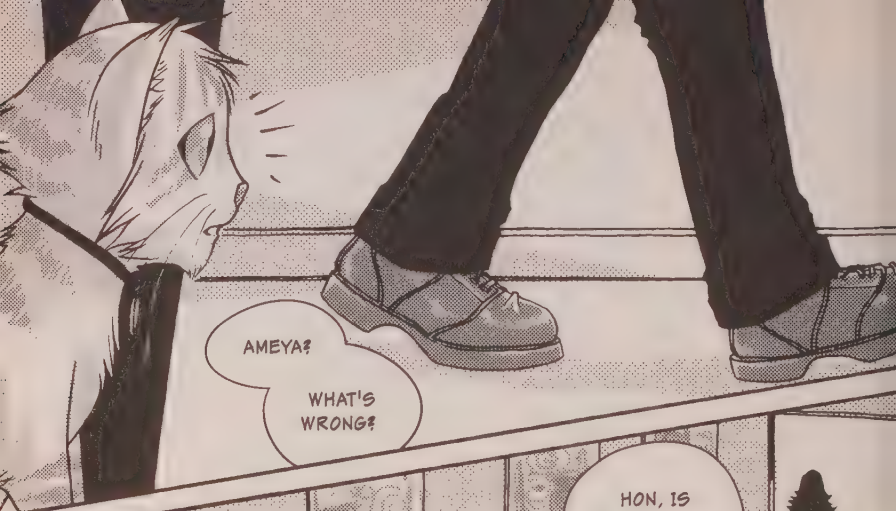


IT'S BAD
ENOUGH I'M
STUCK HERE
CLEANING...

AGAIN...

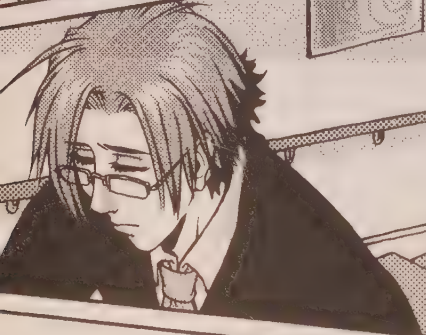
WHILE
LOVERBOY
IS OUT ON
HIS DATE!



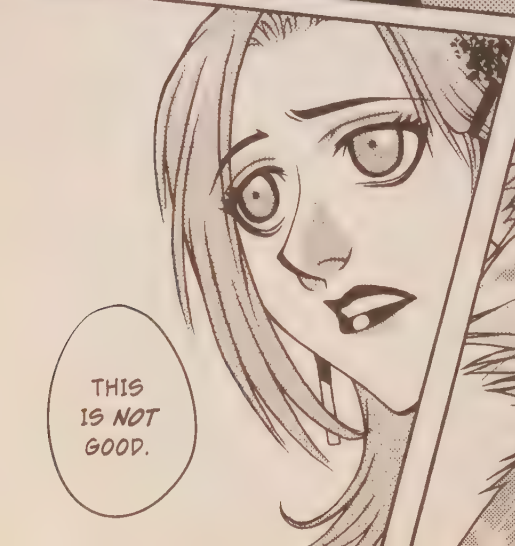


AMEYA?

WHAT'S
WRONG?

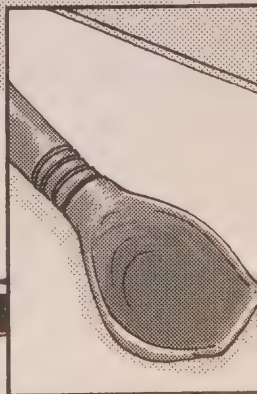


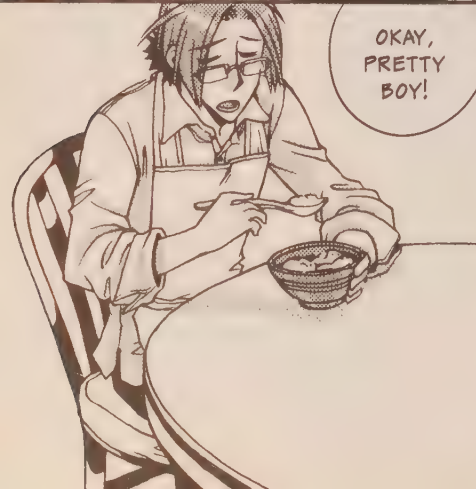
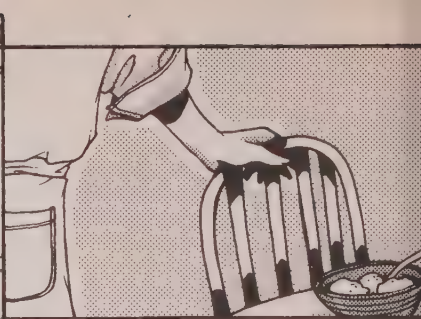
HON, IS
EVERYTHING
OKAY?



THIS
IS NOT
GOOD.





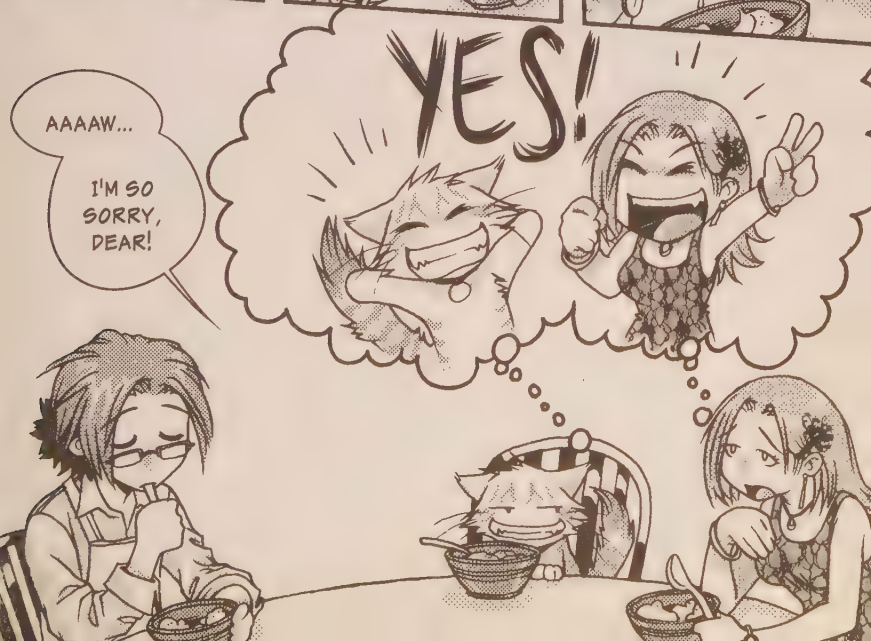
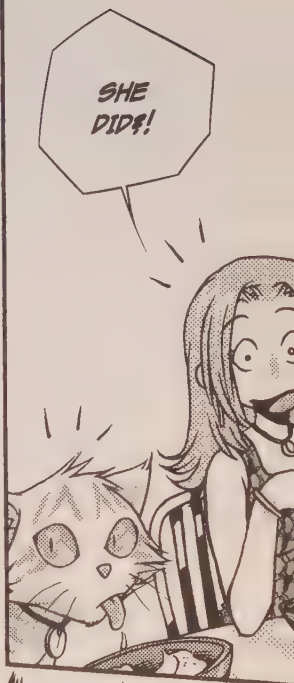
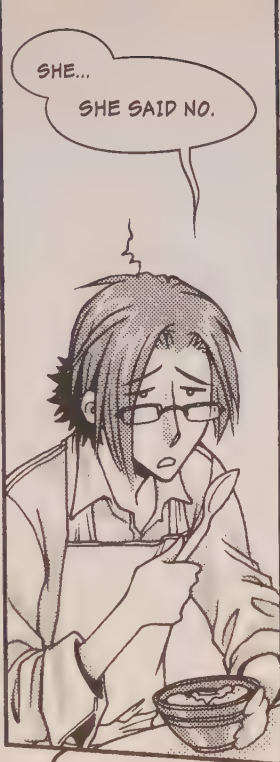
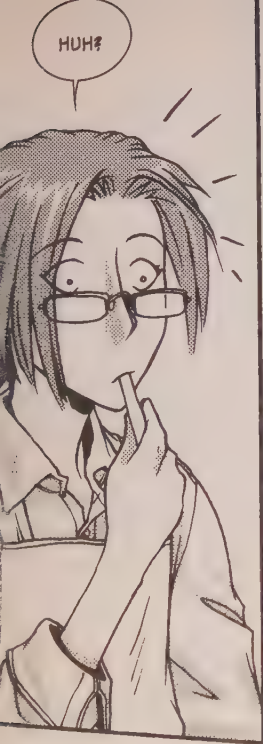


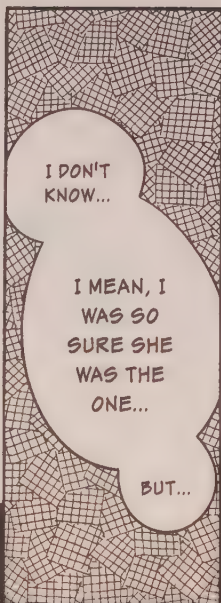
OKAY,
PRETTY
BOY!

ENOUGH
WITH THE
DRAMA--
SPILL IT!

WHAT
HAPPENED?





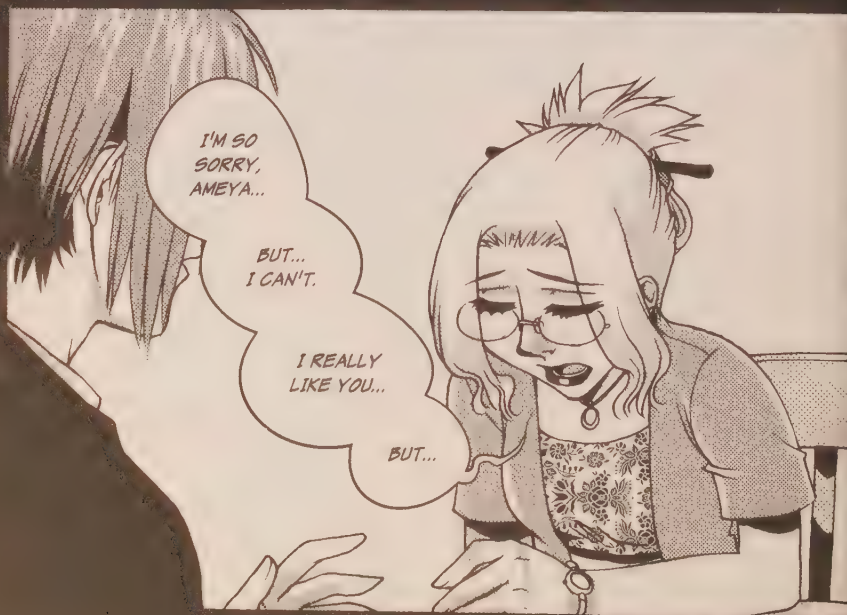


I DON'T
KNOW...

I MEAN, I
WAS SO
SURE SHE
WAS THE
ONE...

BUT...

GO OUT
WITH YOU?

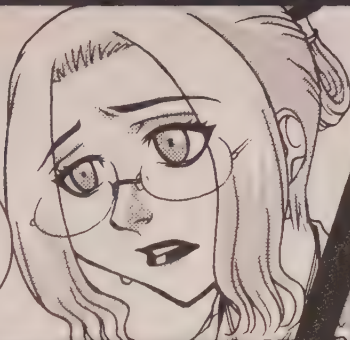


I'M SO
SORRY,
AMEYA...

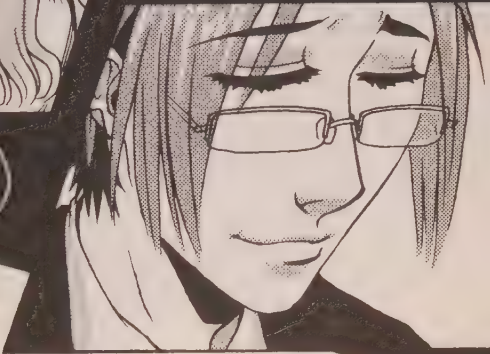
BUT...
I CAN'T.

I REALLY
LIKE YOU...

BUT...



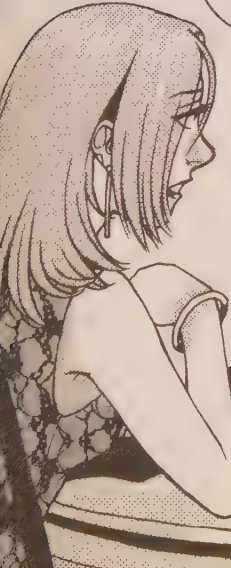
I'M
JUST NOT
READY.



MY CAREER IS
JUST STARTING TO
TAKE OFF, AND...
I'M SO SORRY.

NO NO
DON'T WORRY, I
UNDERSTAND.

SO...

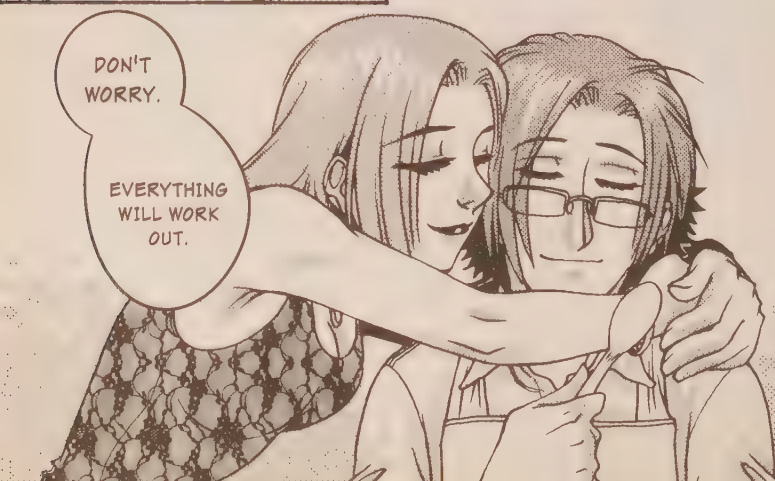
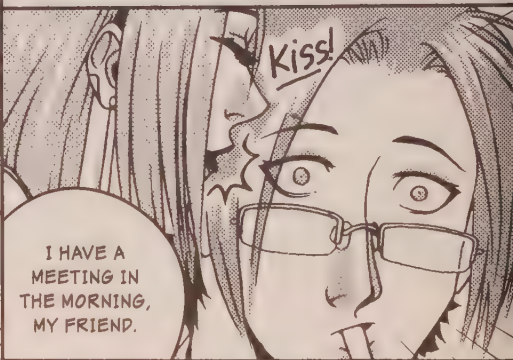
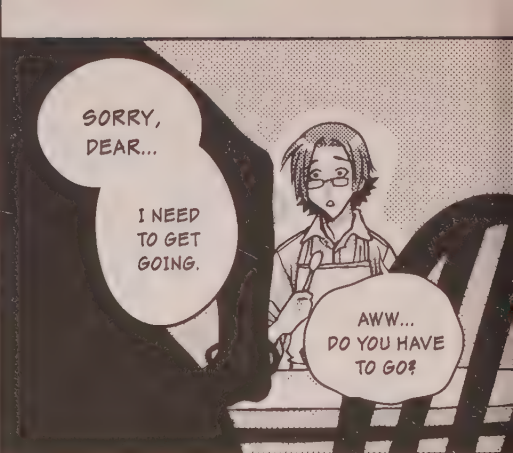
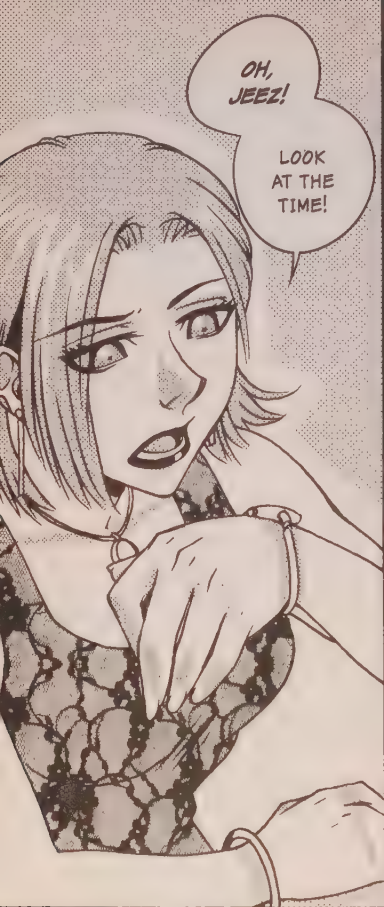


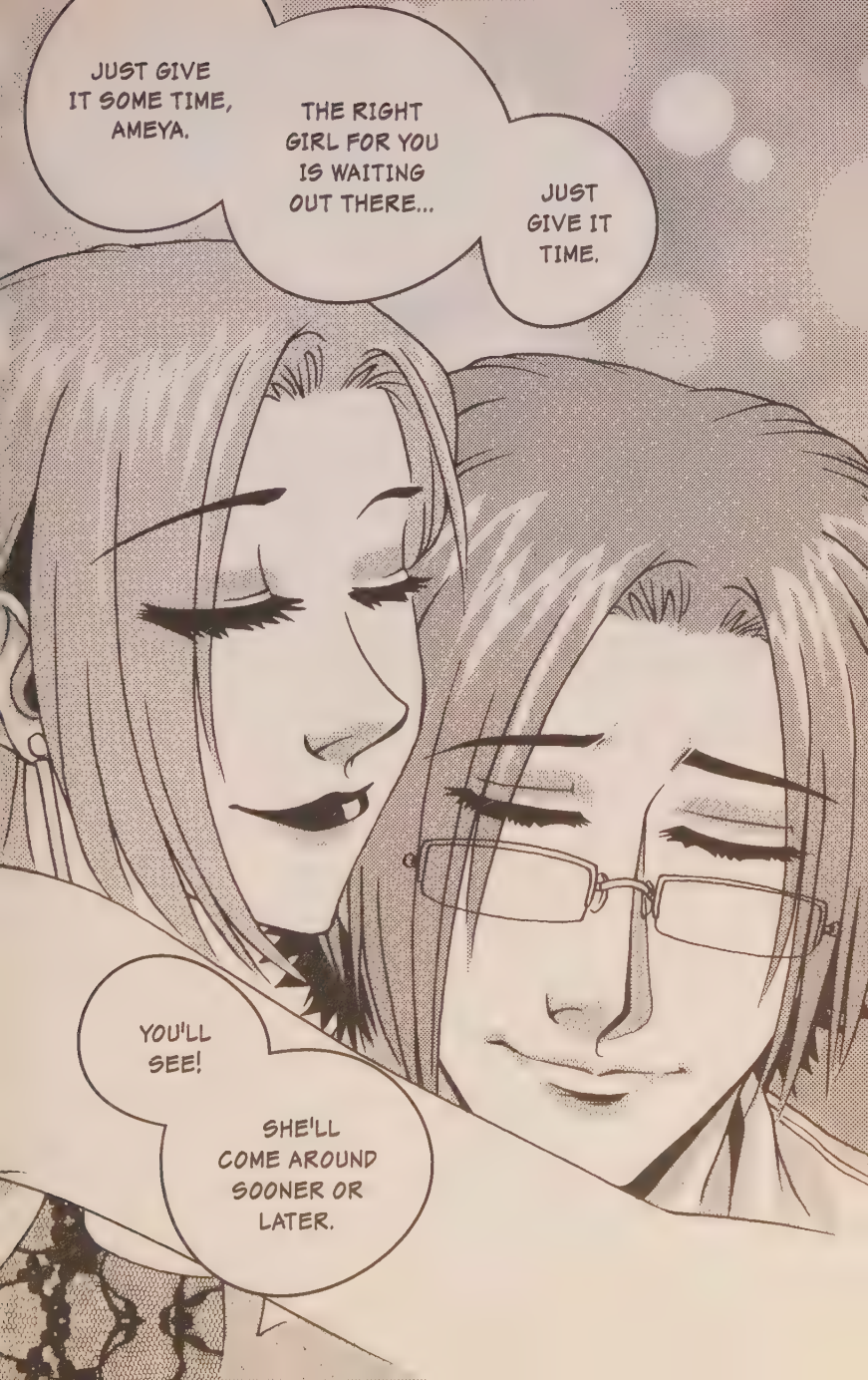
BASICALLY
SHE CHOSE
HER CAREER
OVER YOU...

HOW
IRONIC!



I KNOW!
FUNNY,
ISN'T
IT?





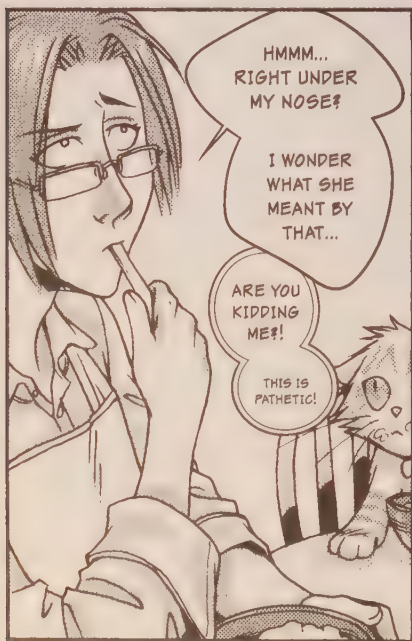
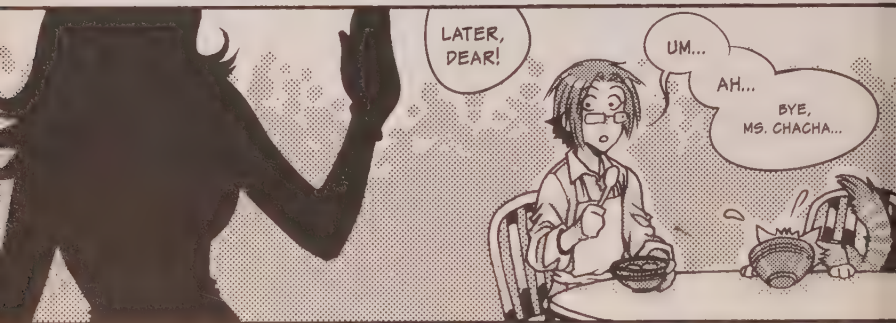
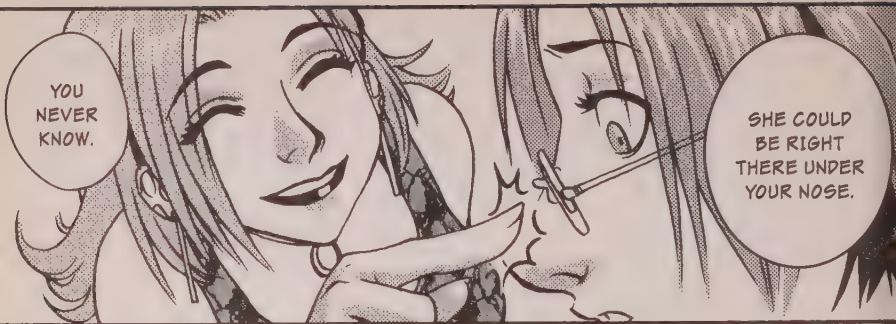
JUST GIVE
IT SOME TIME,
AMEYA.

THE RIGHT
GIRL FOR YOU
IS WAITING
OUT THERE...

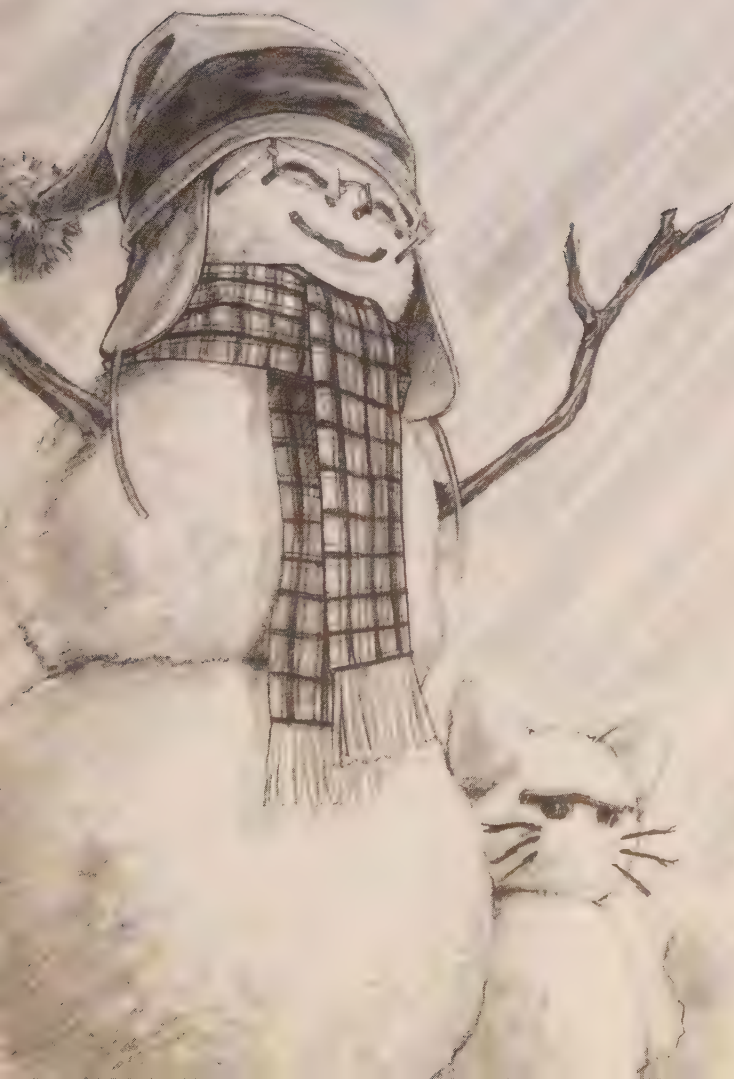
JUST
GIVE IT
TIME.

YOU'LL
SEE!

SHE'LL
COME AROUND
SOONER OR
LATER.



CHAPTER 6







LOKI?
YOU READY
TO GO?

NO!



COME ON!
IT'S JUST
A QUICK
TRIP IN
A LITTLE
SNOW!

BESIDES,
WE HAVE NO
CHOICE.



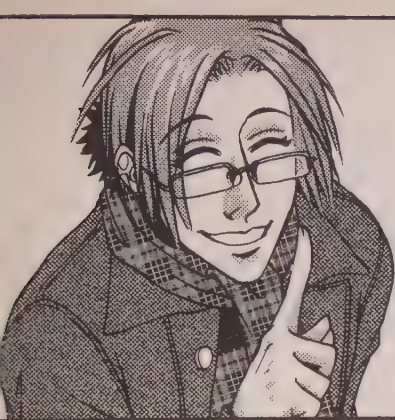
THERE'S A
STORM ROLLING
IN TONIGHT, AND
WHO KNOWS HOW
MUCH MORE SNOW
WE'LL GET!



OH
COME ON,
LOKI!

A LITTLE
FRESH
AIR WON'T
HURT YOU!

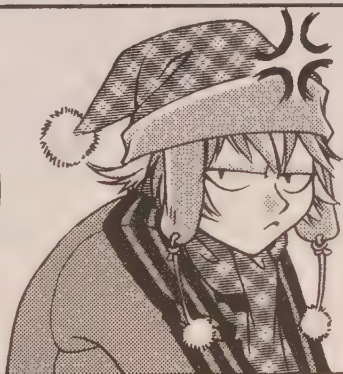




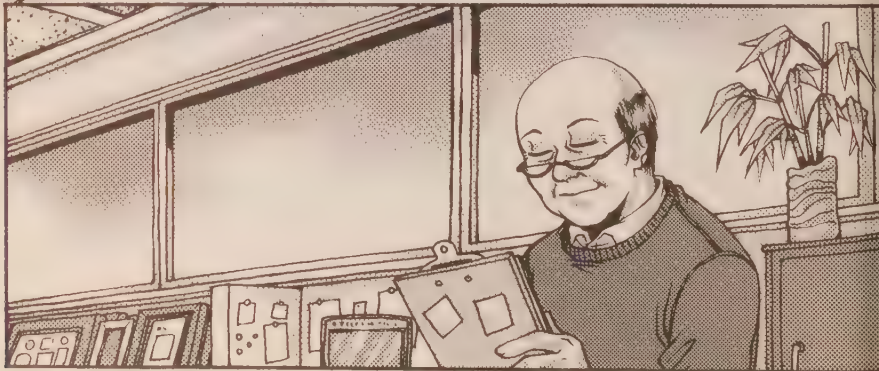
MAYBE IF YOU'RE
ESPECIALLY WELL
BEHAVED, I'LL GET
YOU A TREAT ON
THE WAY HOME!

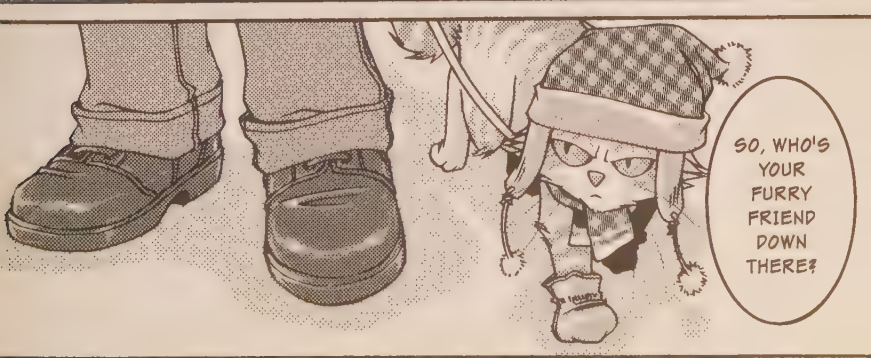
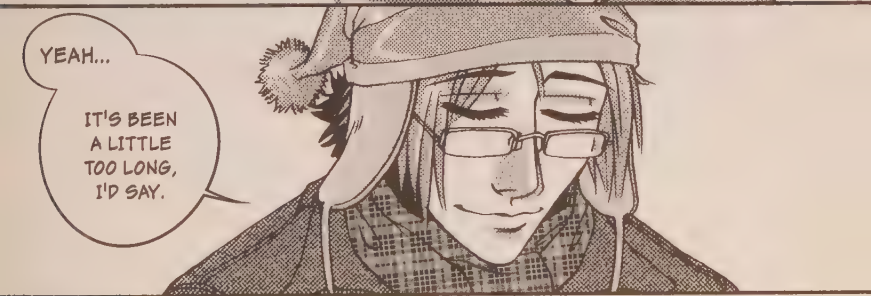
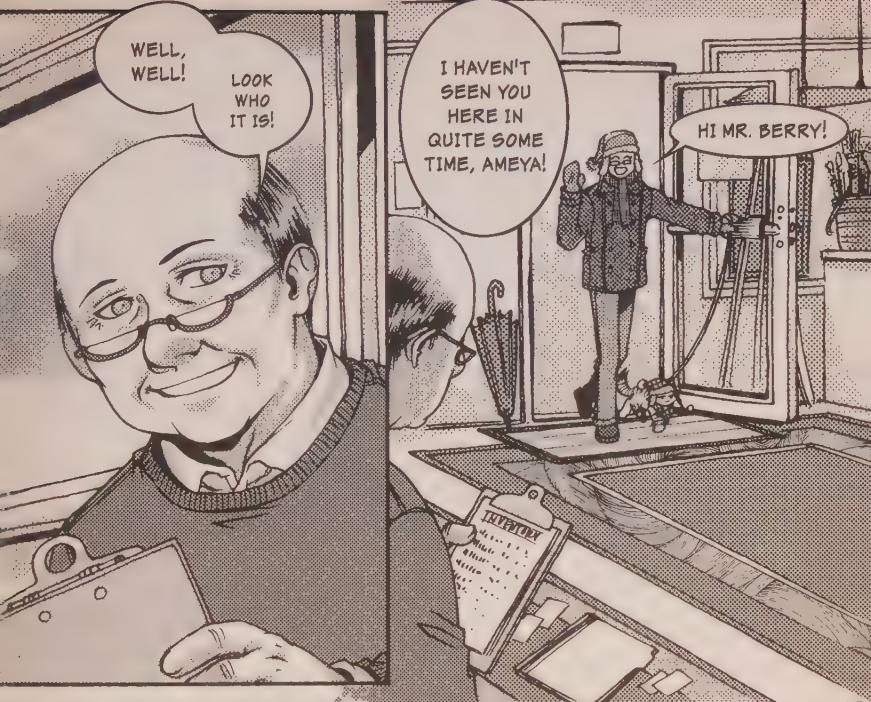
OH...THE
EXCITEMENT...

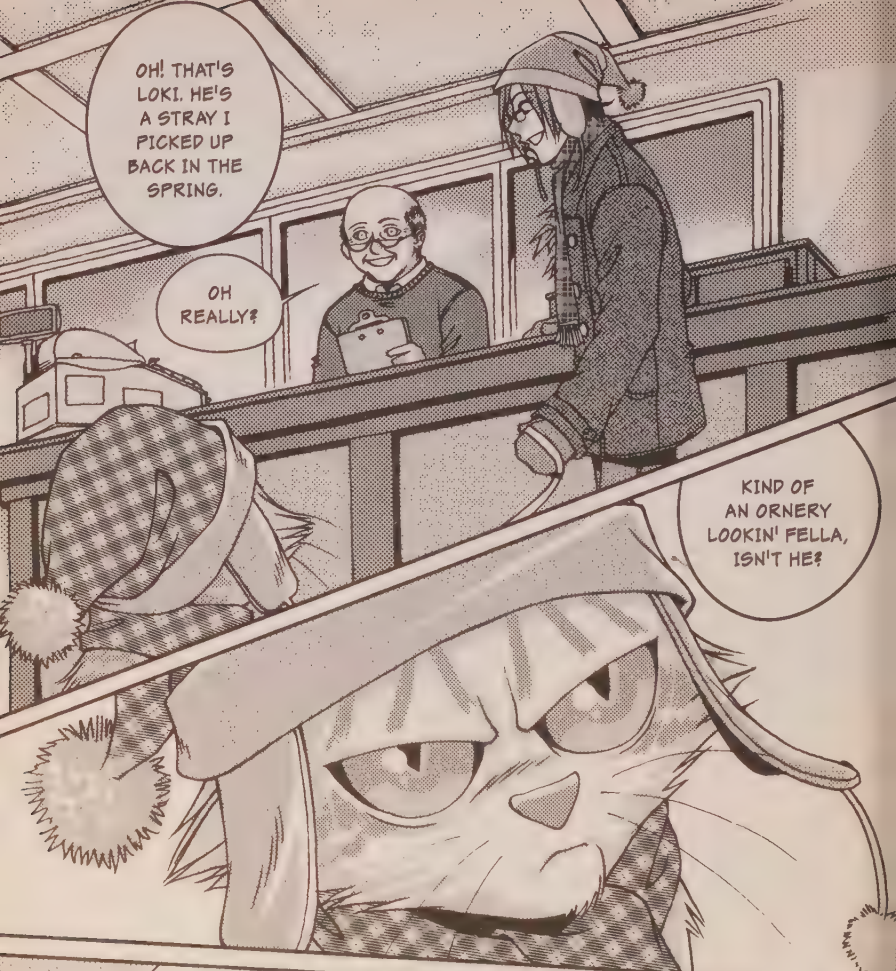
I CAN
HARDLY
CONTAIN
MYSELF!



AND AWAY
WE GO!







OH! THAT'S
LOKI. HE'S
A STRAY I
PICKED UP
BACK IN THE
SPRING.

OH
REALLY?

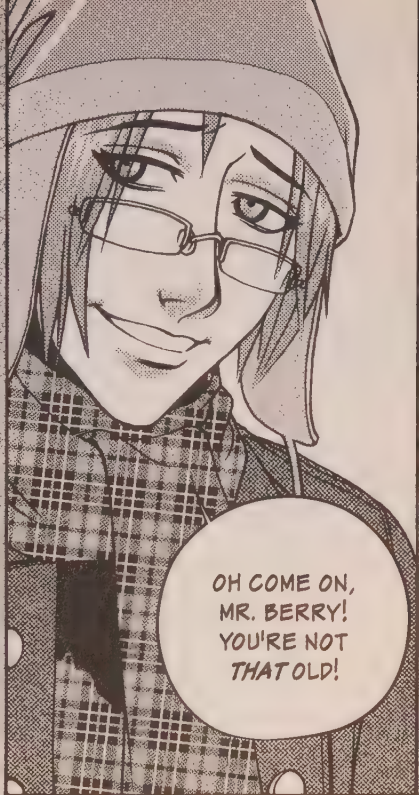
KIND OF
AN ORNERY
LOOKIN' FELLA,
ISN'T HE?

NOT
REALLY...

HE'S JUST A
LITTLE UPSET
THAT I DRAGGED
HIM OUT IN
THE SNOW
TO SHOP.

CAN'T
SAY THAT I
BLAME HIM,
THOUGH...

WITH THIS
WHOLE STORM
COMING AND
WHATNOT, MY
OLD BONES ARE
COMPLAINING,
TOO!



OH COME ON,
MR. BERRY!
YOU'RE NOT
THAT OLD!

OLD ENOUGH
TO RETIRE THE
YEAR AFTER YOU
GRADUATED!



ALTHOUGH, THEN
I JUST STARTED
WORKING HERE
AT THE SHOP
FULL-TIME.



AH YES!

HIGH SCHOOL
ART CLASS.

WHAT FOND
MEMORIES.



YOU WERE
ALWAYS
ONE OF MY
FAVORITES,
YOU KNOW.

REALLY?



YUP! I DON'T
THINK I'VE EVER
HAD SUCH A
PASSIONATE AND
SUCCESSFUL
STUDENT.



AAAWW...STOP IT,
MR. BERRY. YOU'RE
EMBARRASSING ME!



WHY SHOULD I?

INVENTORY

YOU SHOULD
BE AS PROUD
OF YOUR
SUCCESS
AS I AM.

I AM
PROUD
OF IT...
JUST...

NOT WHEN
IT COSTS ME
SOMETHING
DEAR.

YOU
DON'T
SAY?

AAWWW,
I SEE...

I WAS WONDERING
WHY YOU LOOKED
DIFFERENT.

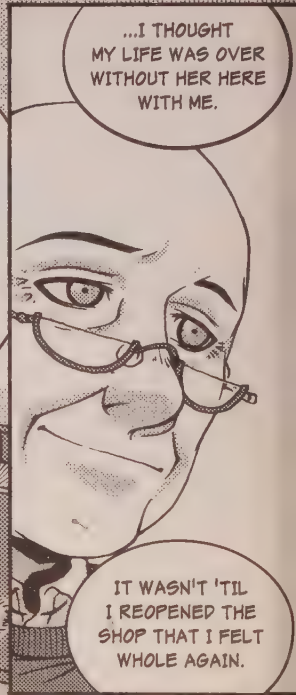


THERE,
THERE,
BOY.

I KNOW
HOW YOU
FEEL...

I WENT
THROUGH
THE SAME
THING WITH
THE MISSUS
TWO YEARS
AGO...GOD
REST HER
SOUL.

I CLOSED
THE SHOP
FOR MONTHS
BECAUSE...



...I THOUGHT
MY LIFE WAS OVER
WITHOUT HER HERE
WITH ME.

IT WASN'T 'TIL
I REOPENED THE
SHOP THAT I FELT
WHOLE AGAIN.



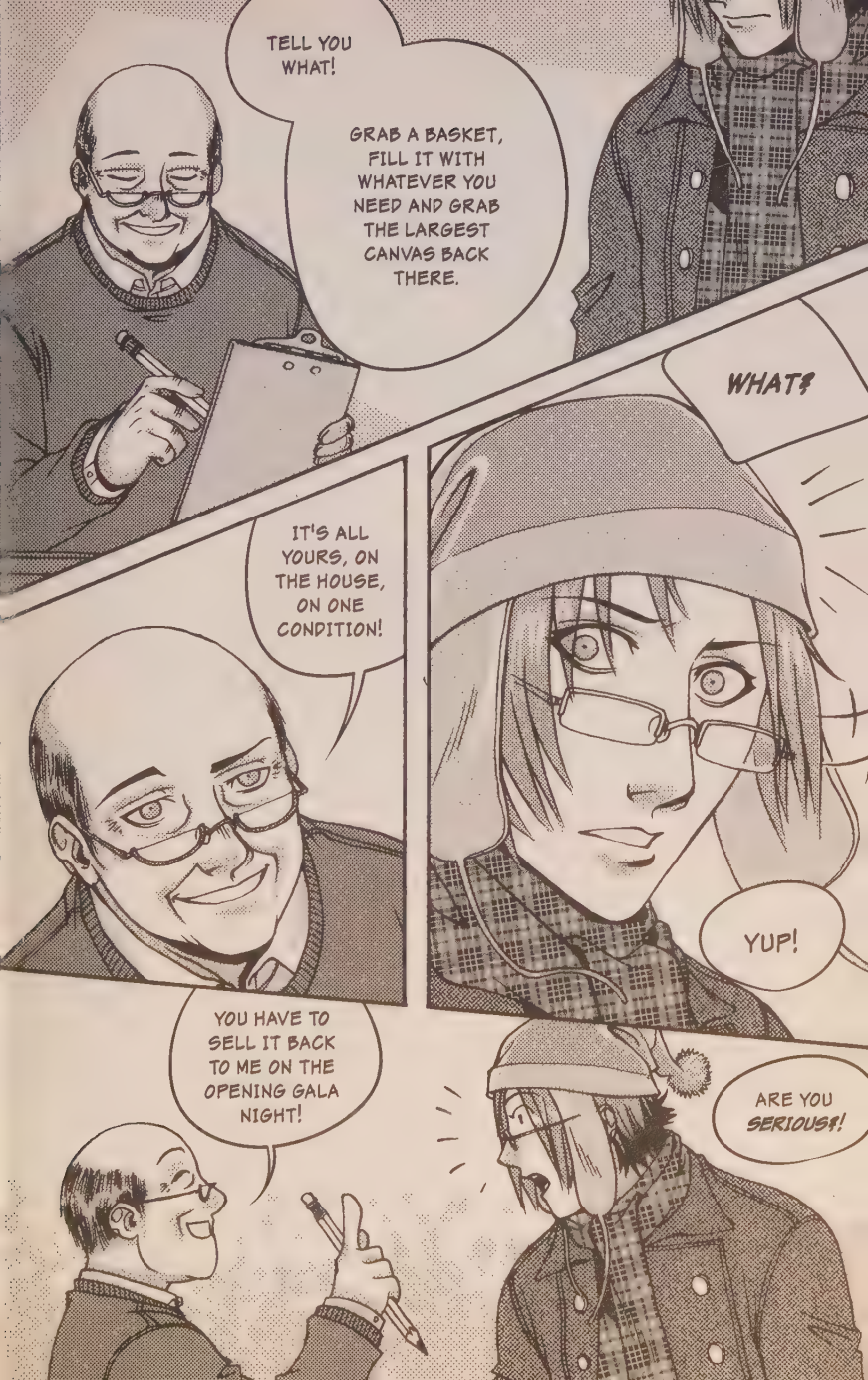
BLANK CANVAS
art supplies & custom picture framing

KEEPING THE
SHOP IN HER
MEMORY IS LIKE
HAVING HER
BACK WITH
ME AGAIN!



BEST
THERAPY
FOR GRIEF
I'VE EVER
HAD.

I HIGHLY
RECOMMEND
IT!



TELL YOU
WHAT!

GRAB A BASKET,
FILL IT WITH
WHATEVER YOU
NEED AND GRAB
THE LARGEST
CANVAS BACK
THERE.

WHAT?

IT'S ALL
YOURS, ON
THE HOUSE,
ON ONE
CONDITION!

YUP!

YOU HAVE TO
SELL IT BACK
TO ME ON THE
OPENING GALA
NIGHT!

ARE YOU
SERIOUS?!



ABSOLUTELY!

NO MATTER
WHAT THE
COST!

WOW, I CAN'T
THANK YOU ENOUGH,
MR. BERRY!

mew!



OH
GOD,
NO!

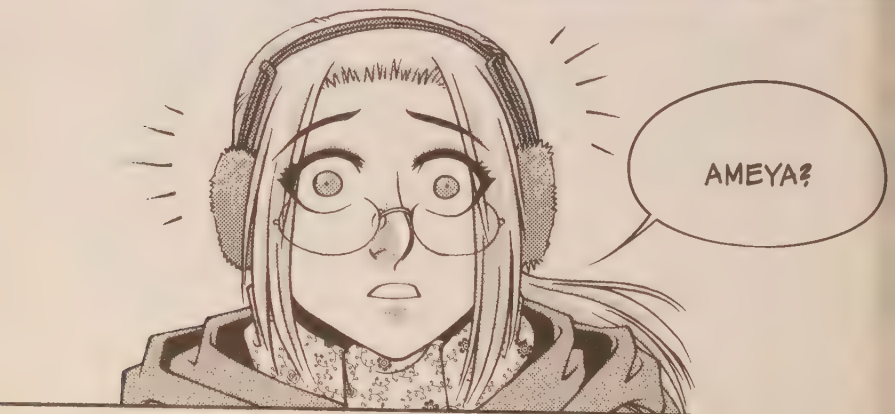
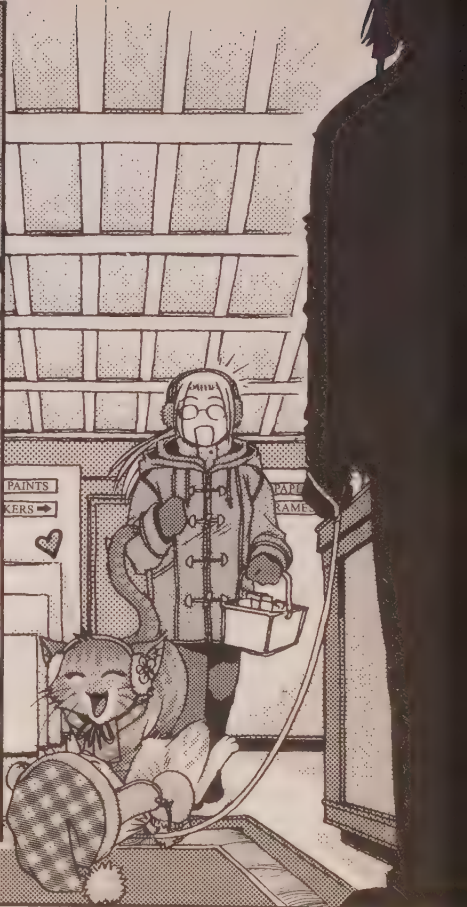
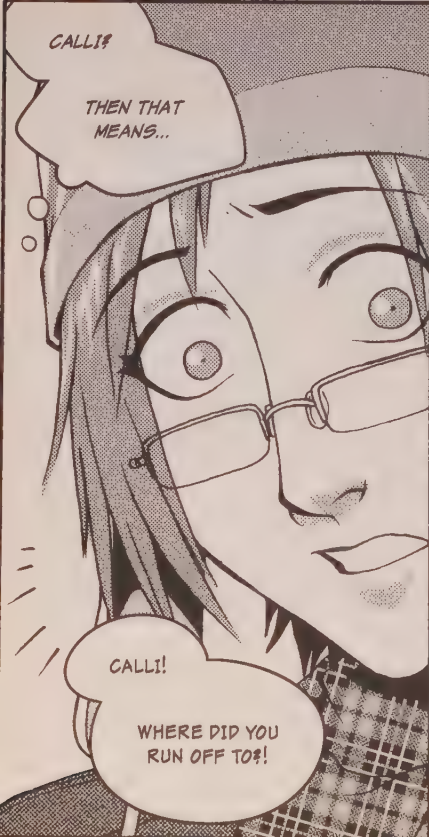
NO! NO! NO!

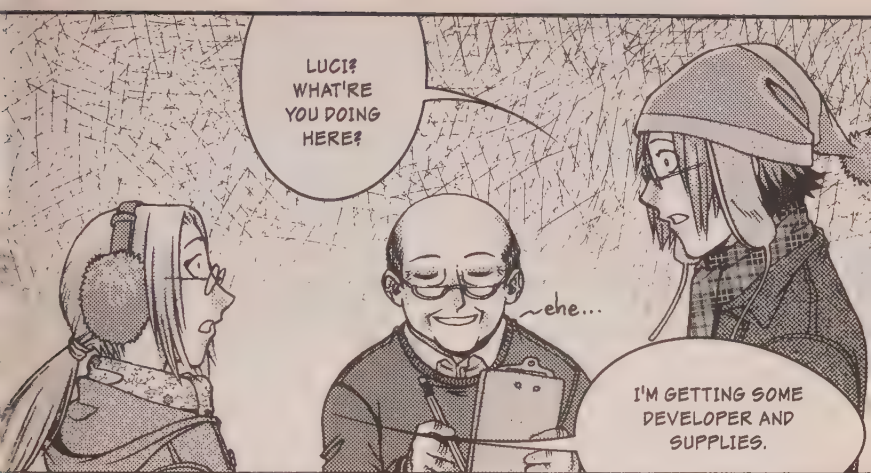
KATHINKY

LOKI?

LOKI!

CALLI!





LUCI?
WHAT'RE
YOU DOING
HERE?

ehe...

I'M GETTING SOME
DEVELOPER AND
SUPPLIES.



BUT MR. BERRY
DOESN'T SELL
PHOTOGRAPHY
SUPPLIES.

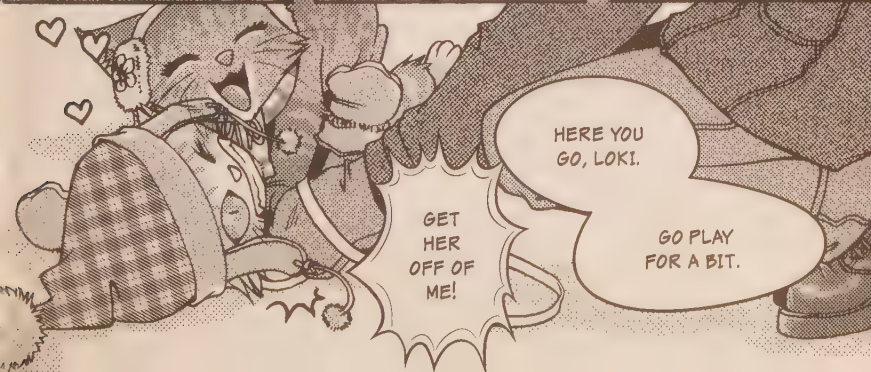


YEAH...

BUT HE
DOES
SPECIAL
ORDER
THEM.



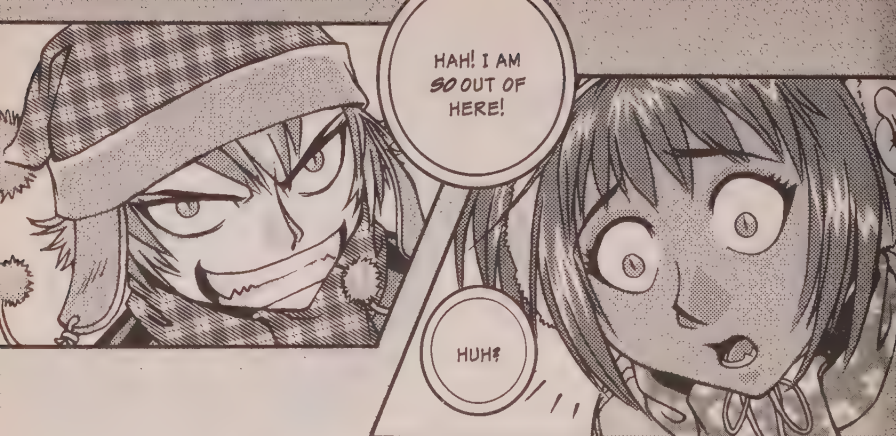
OH.
RIGHT.



HERE YOU
GO, LOKI.

GET
HER
OFF OF
ME!

GO PLAY
FOR A BIT.



HAH! I AM
SO OUT OF
HERE!

HUH?

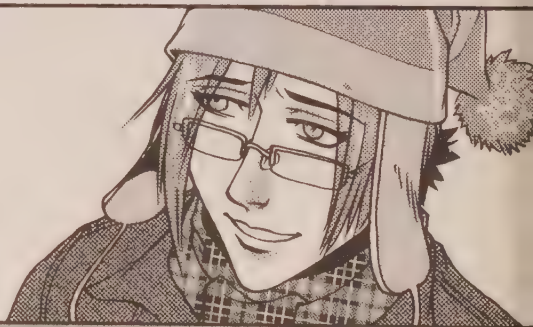


Aaawww!
Come back,
Loki!



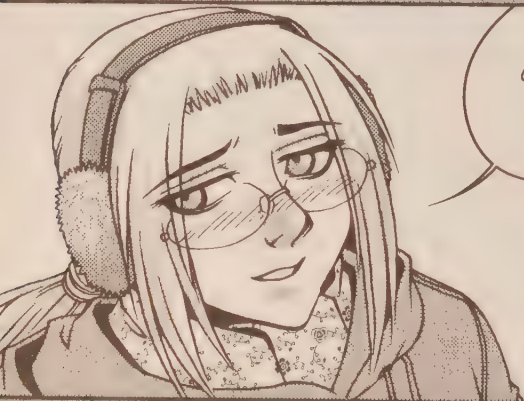
SO...UM...

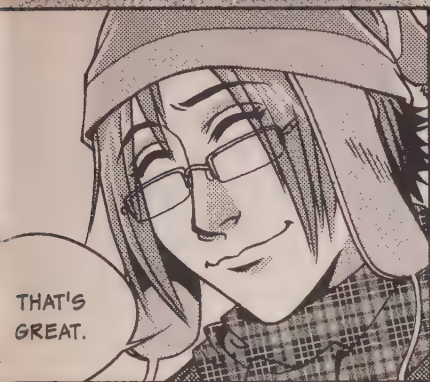
WHAT HAVE
YOU BEEN UP
TO LATELY?



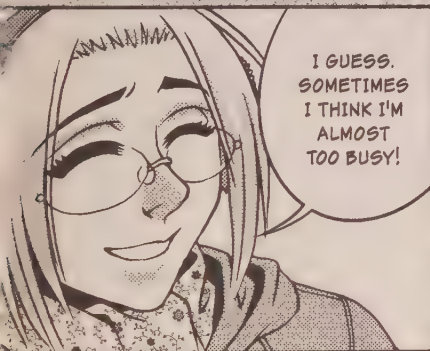
OH...WELL...
WORK
MOSTLY.

I'VE BEEN
REALLY
BUSY SINCE
THE SHOW.





THAT'S
GREAT.



I GUESS.
SOMETIMES
I THINK I'M
ALMOST
TOO BUSY!



OH...UM...
AMEYA?

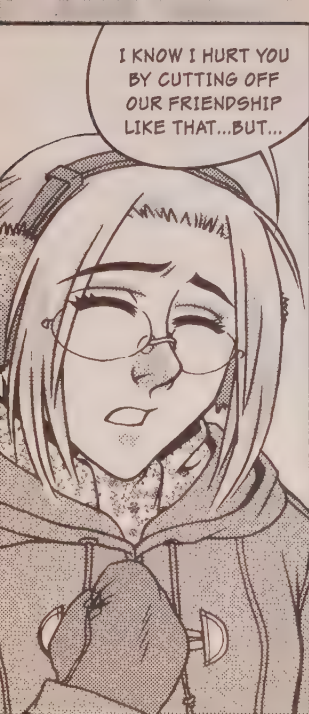
I...



I'M SORRY.

I'M SORRY
ABOUT THAT
NIGHT IN THE
RESTAURANT.

I MEANT TO
CALL YOU SO
MANY TIMES
TO APOLOGIZE,
BUT I JUST
COULDN'T.



I KNOW I HURT YOU
BY CUTTING OFF
OUR FRIENDSHIP
LIKE THAT...BUT...



IT'S OKAY. I
UNDERSTAND.

LUCI...



ARE YOU
SURE?

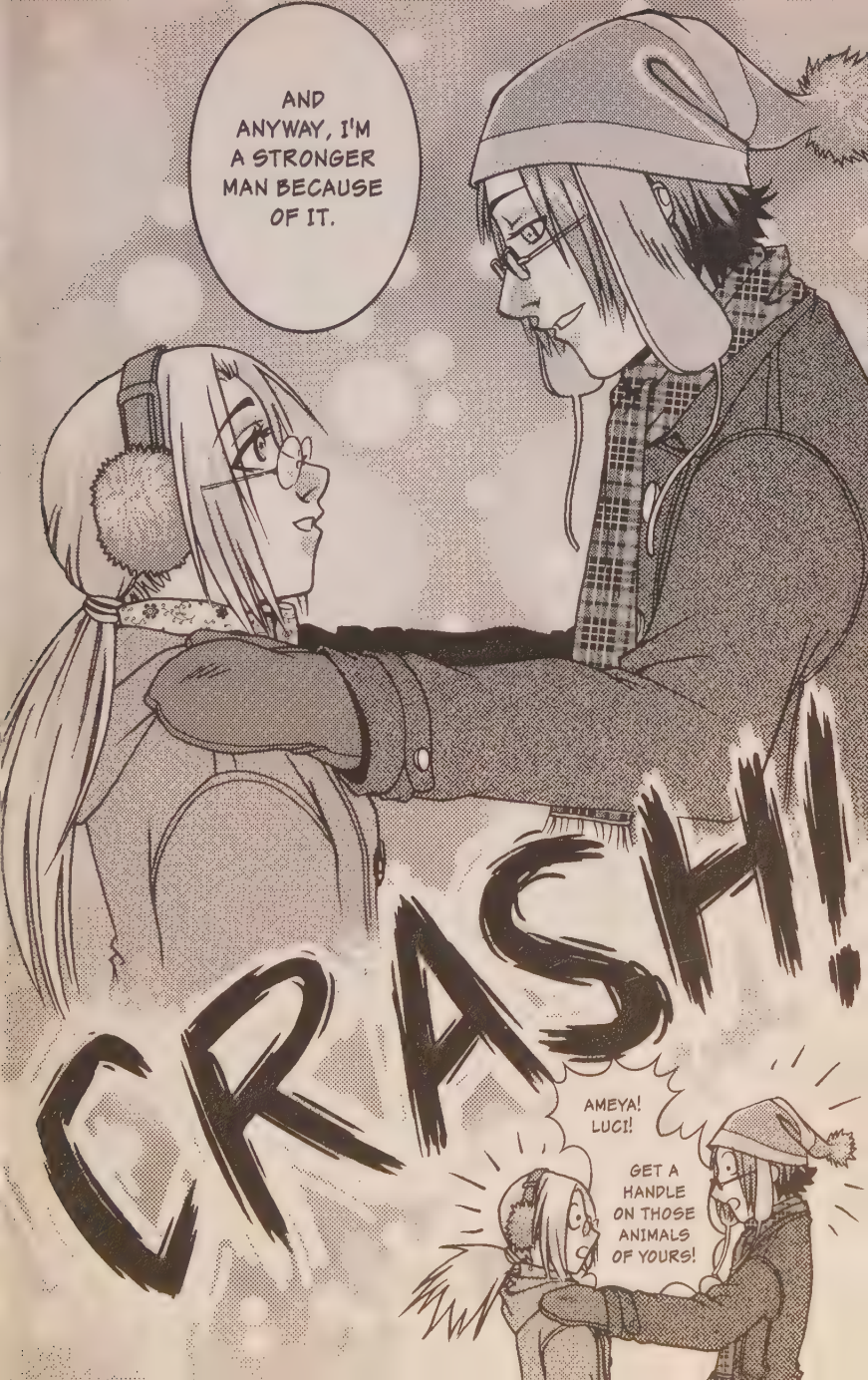
BUT...



DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
IT!

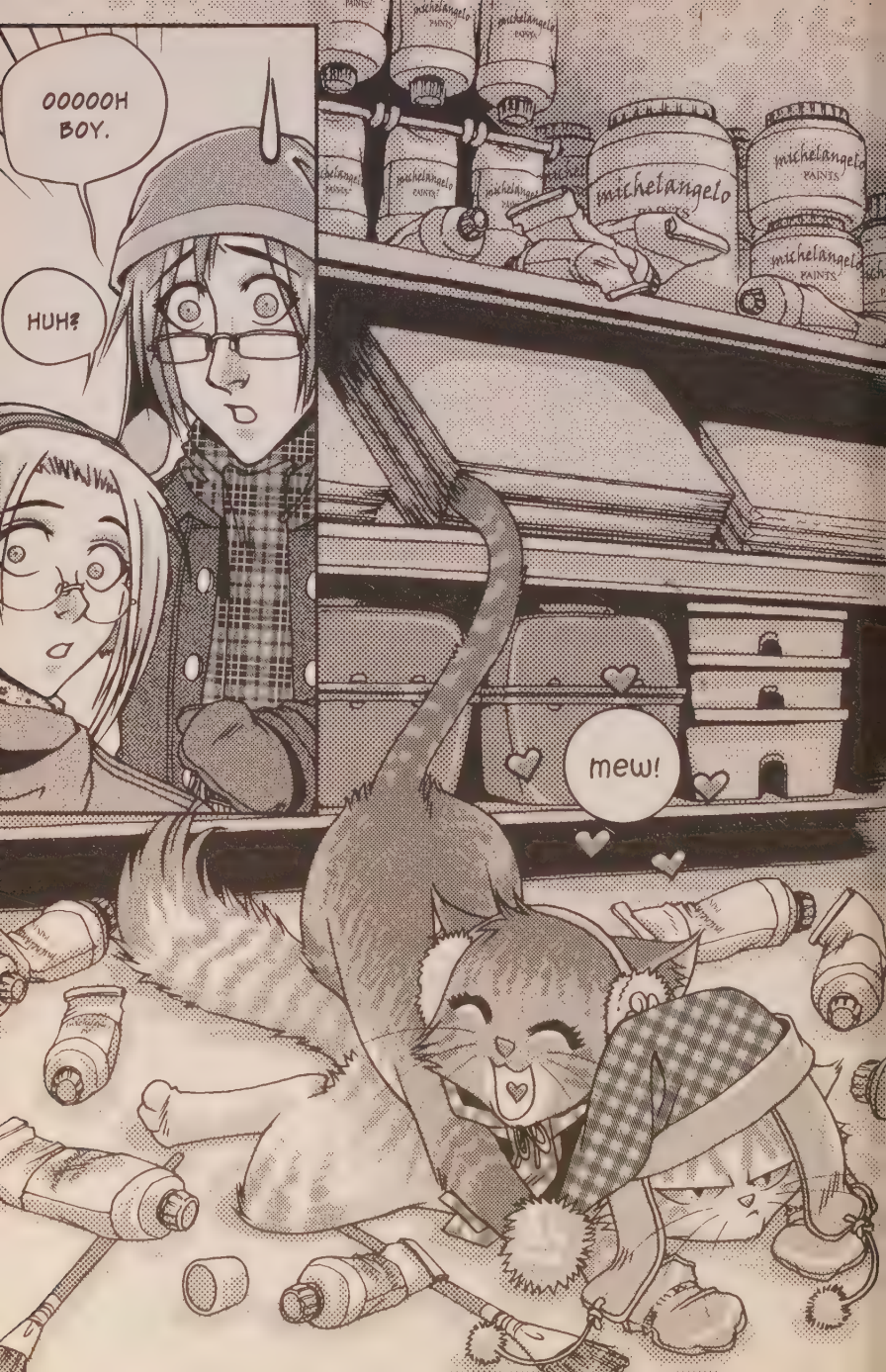
I GOT AHEAD
OF MYSELF.

AND
ANYWAY, I'M
A STRONGER
MAN BECAUSE
OF IT.



AMEYA!
LUCI!


GET A
HANDLE
ON THOSE
ANIMALS
OF YOURS!



OOOOOH
BOY.

HUH?

mew!



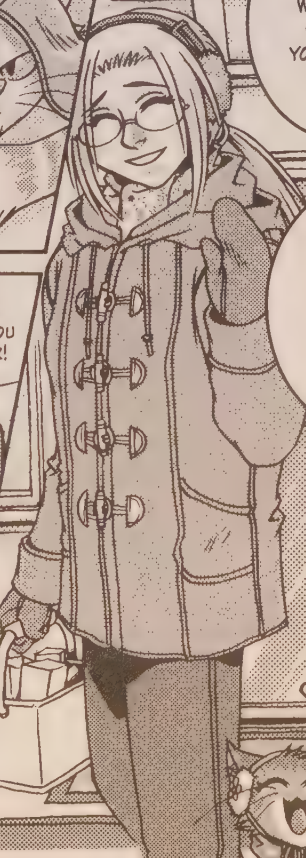
WE SHOULD
REALLY GET
GOING.



YEAH.
SAME
HERE.



COME ON,
GIRL. TIME
TO GO!



WELL, IT
WAS NICE
SEEING
YOU AGAIN,
AMEYA.



BYE,
LOKI!
SEE YOU
LATER!

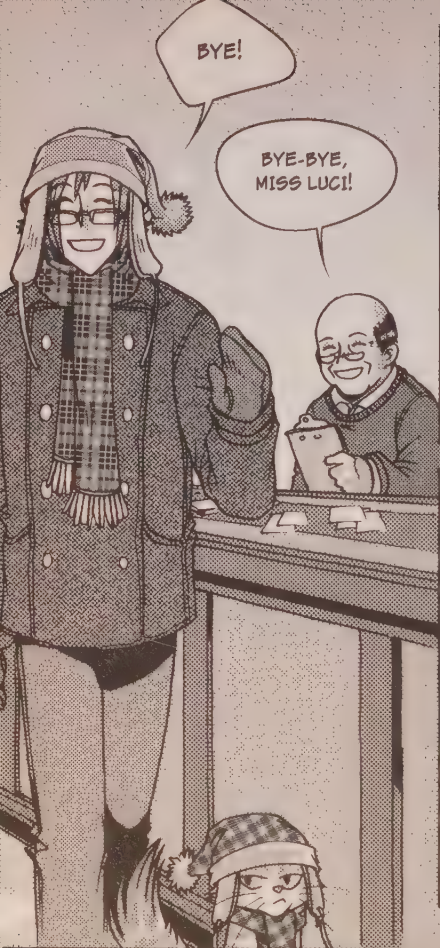
THANK YOU,
MR. BERRY,
FOR ALL
THE HELP.

BYE-
BYE!



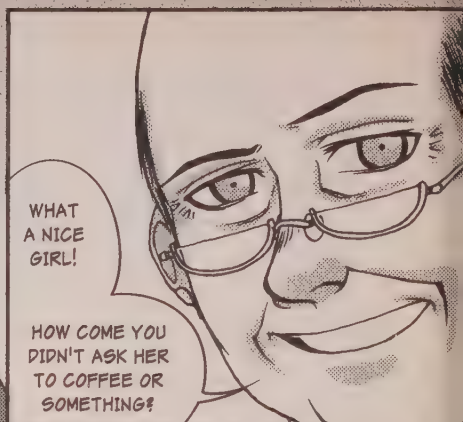
mew!





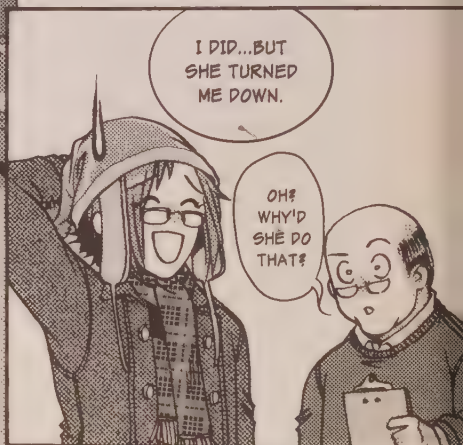
BYE!

BYE-BYE,
MISS LUCI!



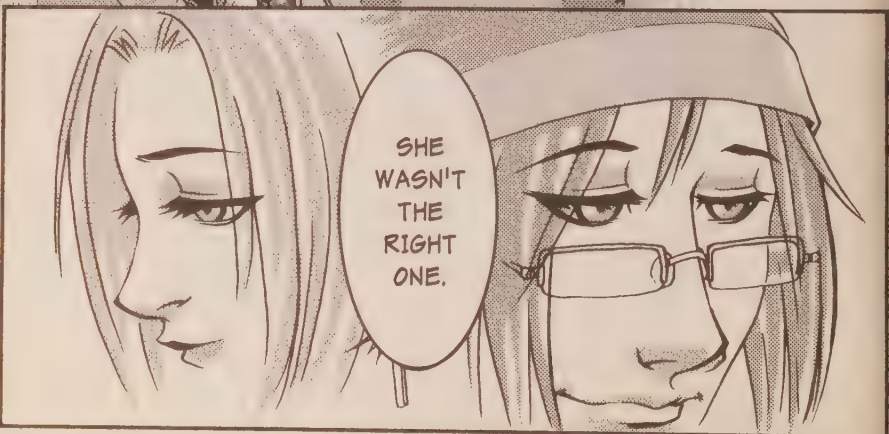
WHAT
A NICE
GIRL!

HOW COME YOU
DIDN'T ASK HER
TO COFFEE OR
SOMETHING?



I DID...BUT
SHE TURNED
ME DOWN.

OH?
WHY'D
SHE DO
THAT?



SHE
WASN'T
THE
RIGHT
ONE.



SO WHAT
SHALL WE
HAVE FOR
DINNER
TONIGHT,
CALLI?

mew

mew
mew!

OOOOH!
THAT'S
A GREAT
IDEA!

mew!

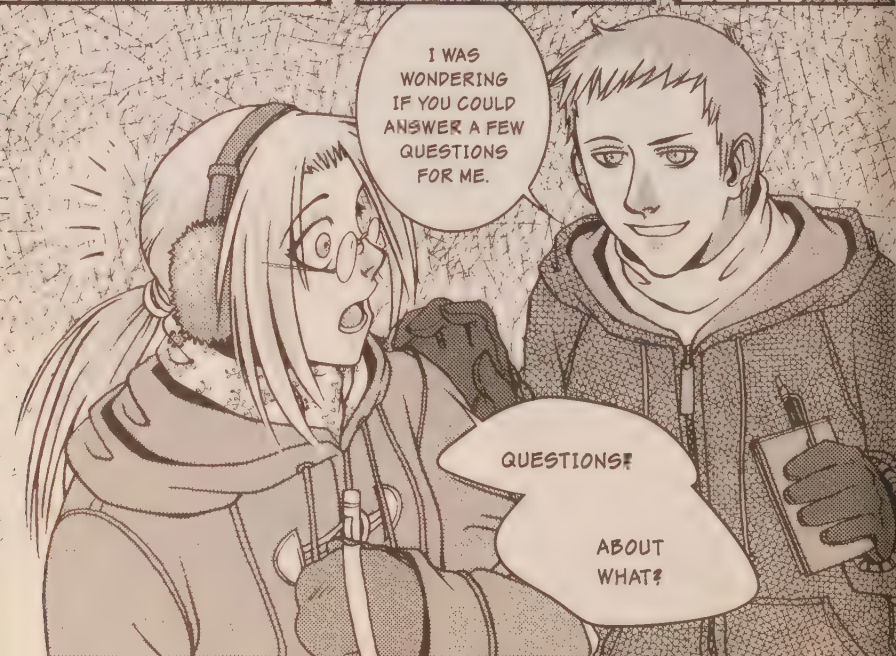
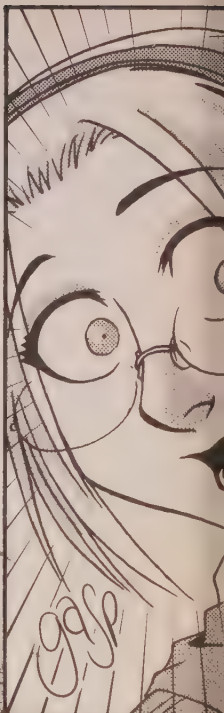


AND FOR
DESSERT...
ICE CREAM!

mew!



EXCUSE
ME, MISS!



I WAS
WONDERING
IF YOU COULD
ANSWER A FEW
QUESTIONS
FOR ME.

QUESTIONS?

ABOUT
WHAT?



ABOUT
YOUR ARTIST
FRIEND IN
THE ART
SUPPLY
STORE.

THE ONE
WITH THE
CAT...

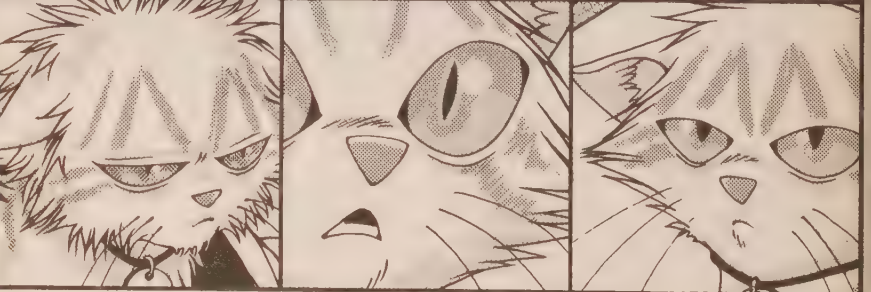
TO BE CONTINUED...



My Cat Loki vol. 3 preview:



In the final volume of My Cat Loki, the fragile friendship between Ameya and Loki will be put to the test! Ameya has finally regained his artistic inspiration (thanks to Loki's cranky presence), but he's still busy sorting out his feelings in-between all the chaos. And of course, he is totally unprepared when Loki's former owners suddenly reappear! A fight over whom Loki truly belongs to is about to begin, but losing Loki might just be the end for Ameya...



Notes from the Drawing Board



HUZZAH! HUZZAH! HUZZAH!

WELL! Here we are again! The end of another volume of My Cat Loki...and let me tell you...it's been QUITE a ride! Looking back, I'd like to think I've grown as a comicbook artist with the creation of this volume, as I've noticed many improvements in my techniques along the way! ^ _ ^ Again, I'm proud of my accomplishments with the completion of this volume. I still can't believe it! TWO WHOLE BOOKS under my belt now! SERIOUSLY! That's a WHOLE lotta work and am VERY happy that I've made it this far!

Now...only ONE volume to go...and it'll be the BEST by FAR! XD I am DEFINITELY looking forward to working on it! ^ _ ^ But before I do that, I cannot forget to acknowledge all those who have had their part in helping make this book possible! ^ _ ^

LILLIAN ~ You continue to be the BESTEST EDITOR EVER! Am SO honoured to be working under your guidance, kindness and patience. I honestly don't think I'd have made it this far if it weren't for your constant encouragement and support! ^ _ ^ ***BIG LOVIN HUGS!!***

FRIENDS ~ Both on and off line, for continuing to be there for me thru the thick and thin, again, I seriously can't thank you enough! ***BIG LOVIN' HUGS TO ALL!***

MY FAMILY ~ For continuing to believe in my dream to become what I am today, supporting my accomplishments and still help to provide a roof over my head and food for sustenance. Yes, I WILL eventually move out of the house...in the meantime, I'm really learning how to cook well, aren't I?!! :D

THE FANS ~ For your continuing support and appreciation of my work. My love and GREAT thanks to you all! ^ _ ^

And last, but certainly NOT least...

My cat Morris - You will always be my inspiration. I dearly miss you, but your place in my life and heart will always remain and never be forgotten. This story is for you! =^ _ ^=

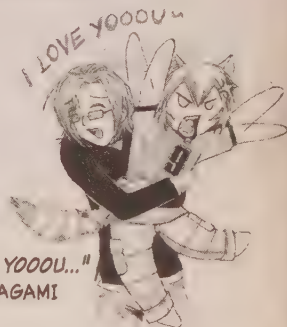
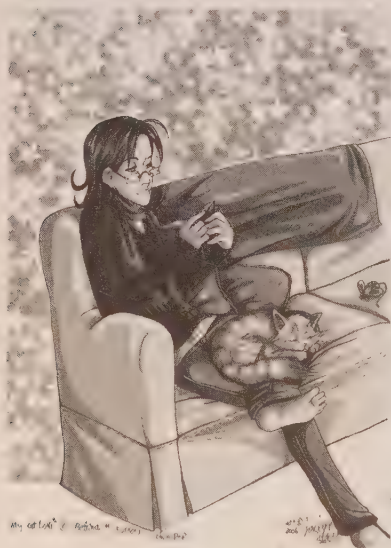
Lots of love, GREAT appreciation and BIG LOVIN' HUGS,

~ Bettina ^ _ ^

LOKI'S SCRATCHING POST

-FANART, FANMAIL AND OTHER FUN STUFFS!-

WELCOME TO THE FAN SECTION OF **MY CAT LOKI**!
THANK YOU **SO MUCH** FOR ALL THE **FANTASTICALLY WONDERFUL** FANART
WE'VE RECEIVED FROM FANS AND FRIENDS ALIKE!
KEEP IT COMING! :D

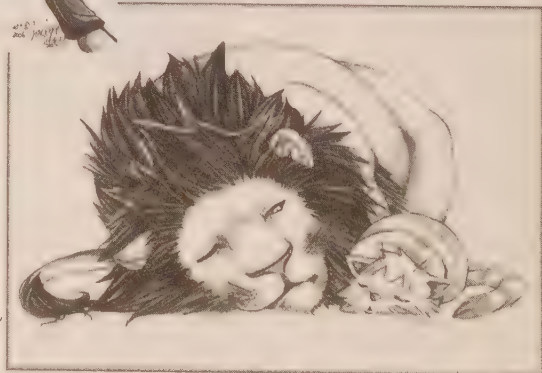


"I LOVE YOOOU..."
BY KAGAMI

"CURL UP WITH A BOOK"
BY MISTYTANG
MISTYTANG.DEVIANTART.COM

"PEACE TO SLEEP"
BY REIKO KOBAYASHI
WWW.HYBRIDGENESIS.COM
KOBAYASHI.DEVIANTART.COM

(REMEMBER AMEYA'S COLLEGE
FRIEND, HEATHER? WELL, THIS IS
THE REAL LIFE ARTIST AND GREAT FRIEND,
HEATHER, WHOM I MODELED
THE CHARACTER AFTER! :D)





TODAY WAS FUN! I HADN'T
BEEN SWIMMING IN FOREVER!

LOKI- CAN YOU
WATCH THIS WHILE
I GO CHANGE?



JUST YOU
AND ME
NOW,
DUCKIE...

pounce



POP!

LOKI?



MY FRIEND!
MY POOR FRIEND!

"LOKI MEETS DUCKIE FLOATY"

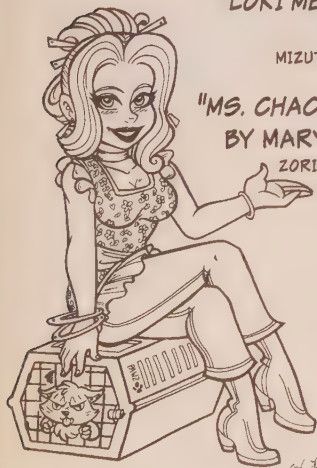
BY PUDDLE

MIZUTAMARI.DEVIANTART.COM

"MS. CHACHA AND LOKI"

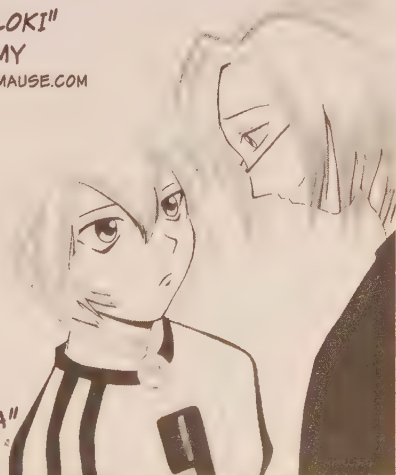
BY MARY BELLAMY

ZORILITA.BITTERMAUSE.COM



"HUMAN LOKI AND AMEYA"

BY KAGAMI





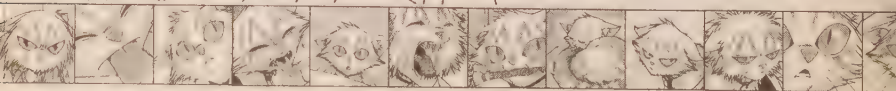
"HUMAN LOKI"
BY MANACHAN



"MS. CHACHA"
BY LYNNWOOD
LYNNWOOD.DEVIANTART.COM



"LOKI AND KITTEN HUGGLE"
BY J. CHOUINARD
(KITTEN BELONGS TO J. CHOUINARD :D)





"CAT'S CRADLE"

BY HEATHER

'CYBRE'

WASNEUSKI

CYBRE.DEVIANTART.COM



"LOKI'S GREAT ESCAPE!"

BY MARY BELLAMY

ZORILITA.BITTERMAUSE.COM

WELL! THAT'S IT FOR NOW!

CATCH YOU LATER IN
MY CAT LOKI VOL. 3!

AND DON'T FORGET TO
SEND IN THAT FANART!
WE'RE ALWAYS LOOKING
FOR MORE GREAT ARTWORK
TO FEATURE IN

LOKI'S SCRATCHING POST!

WE'LL GREATLY THANK YOU
FOR IT! :D



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Author Bio

Bettina M. Kurkoski

Bettina was born March 26, 1973 in Montague, Massachusetts. Now residing in Plymouth, Mass., she works as a freelance illustrator thru her business, Dreamworld Studio. A graduate of the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth in 1996 with a BFA in Illustration, she entered TOKYOPOP's Rising Stars of Manga 2 competition in 2003, placing as a runner-up, her work *Axis Lumen* published in the winners' compilation. You can see more of her artwork at www.dreamworldstudio.net.

Manga
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MY cat LOKI

It's a warm and sunny day when Ameya makes his way to his favorite café and fate rears its strange and beautiful head. When a young woman named Luci literally stumbles into Ameya's life, will the encounter lead to something more? She is just like him—a struggling artist who has a strong relationship with her pet, and she's more than a little clumsy, in a totally adorable way. But neither Loki nor Miss Chacha finds Ameya's growing interest in the newcomer to be even the least bit cute! What's a lonely cat and a heartsick agent to do?!



ISBN 978-1-59816-732-0



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